

Freshwater Fishing in Virginia

July 1, 2006-December 31, 2007



This pamphlet is for general information. Specific laws are found in the Code of Virginia or the Game Department Regulation Manual. For answers to specific questions about fishing, contact the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries. See page 2 for the office nearest you.

About the Department

Serving the outdoor public since 1916, the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries continues to move forward with renewed vigor and an encouraging sense of accomplishment.

Fisheries annually stocks over 1.2 million trout into 500 miles of trout streams and raises 13–15 million warmwater fish for stocking in our other lakes and rivers. The Department owns and operates 37 public fishing lakes and manages the fisheries in virtually all major fresh waters of the state. That's over 176,000 acres in lakes and ponds, over 25,000 miles of fishable warmwater streams and rivers, and over 2,800 miles of trout waters. In order to provide access to these waters, the Department operates and maintains 222 launching ramps.

It takes work to maintain a plentiful supply of wildlife. Multiple wildlife projects are ongoing and hundreds of jobs happen every day that often go unnoticed. The Department maintains over 1,000 miles of road and keeps up with more than 5,000 informational

signs, along with 195,000 acres of land on 34 management areas that are kept open and in good shape for public use.

A big part of Virginia's wildlife abundance results from the work of the Virginia game wardens. Wardens annually check over 54,000 hunters, more than 75,000 anglers, and at least 30,000 boaters as they patrol over 3,000,000 miles annually.

All of this work to keep fish and game abundant in Virginia is paid for by the hunters, anglers, and wildlife enthusiasts themselves. The Department receives almost 100 percent of its funds from hunting and fishing licenses, boat titling and registration fees, state sales taxes from hunting, fishing, and wildlife watching equipment, and Federal Aid in Sport Fish and Wildlife Restoration Funds from the sale of fishing and hunting equipment and motor boat fuel.

Be sure to buy your license before going fishing. Hope you have safe and enjoyable fishing trips.

If you have questions or need assistance, contact the office nearest you.

Richmond Headquarters

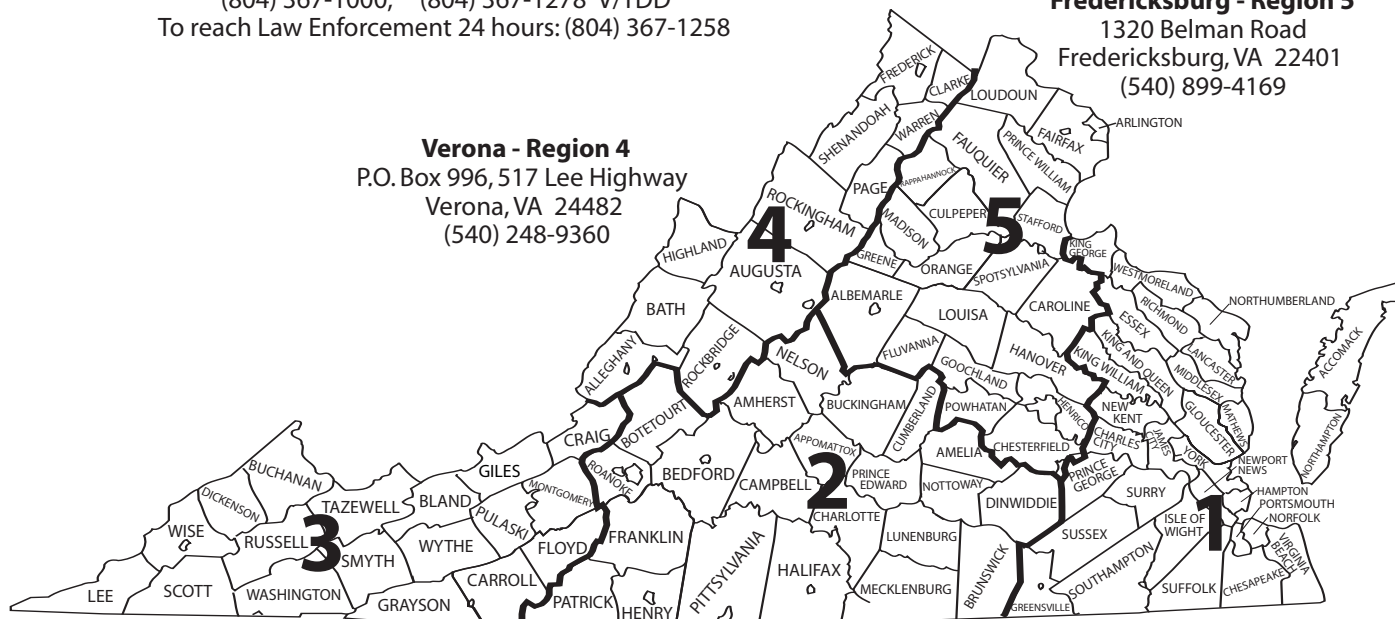
P.O. Box 11104, 4010 West Broad St.
Richmond, VA 23230-1104
(804) 367-1000; (804) 367-1278 V/TDD
To reach Law Enforcement 24 hours: (804) 367-1258

Verona - Region 4

P.O. Box 996, 517 Lee Highway
Verona, VA 24482
(540) 248-9360

Fredericksburg - Region 5

1320 Belman Road
Fredericksburg, VA 22401
(540) 899-4169



Marion - Region 3

1796 Highway Sixteen
Marion, VA 24354
(276) 783-4860

Forest - Region 2

1132 Thomas Jefferson Road
Forest, VA 24551-9223
(434) 525-7522

West Point - Region 1

P.O. Box 276
Barhamsville, VA 23011
(804) 843-5962

Mission Statement

To manage Virginia's wildlife and inland fish to maintain optimum populations of all species to serve the needs of the Commonwealth; to provide opportunity for all to enjoy wildlife, inland fish, boating and related outdoor recreation; to promote safety for persons and property in connection with boating, hunting and fishing.

Commonwealth of Virginia

Timothy M. Kaine
Governor

Secretary of Natural Resources
J. Preston Bryant, Jr.

Department of Game and Inland Fisheries

Colonel W. Gerald Massengill
Interim Director

Members of the Board

Ward Burton
Sherry Smith Crumley
C. Marshall Davison
William T. Greer, Jr.
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Randy J. Kozuch
John W. Montgomery, Jr.
Richard E. Railey, Jr.
Thomas A. Stroup
Charles S. Yates

This program received Federal financial assistance in Sport Fish and/or Wildlife Restoration. Under Title VI of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, the U.S. Department of the Interior prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, sex, or disability. If you believe that you have been discriminated against in any program, activity or facility as described above, or if you desire further information please write to the Office for Human Resources, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 4040 N. Fairfax Drive, Room 300, Arlington, VA 22203.

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Virginia's Sport Fish Program and YOU

Anglers like you make it possible for Virginia to enjoy exceptional fishing and boating opportunities. Through the Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration

Program, you help the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries and Virginia Marine Resources Commission make fishing and boating even better each time you buy a fishing reel, fishing lure, trolling motor, or gas for your boat.

When you buy fishing equipment or gas for your boat, a portion of the federal tax goes to the Sport Fish Restoration Program. Virginia annually receives about \$4 million of that money, which pays 75 percent of many of the fish management and boat access projects to improve your angling pleasure.

What's New

The following fishing regulation changes are new beginning July 1, 2006. More details can be found in sections that follow this summary.

Licenses/Fees

- The Department has implemented a state of the art automated license system. All licenses are valid for one year from date of purchase with a few exceptions. See page 6.
- The license agent fee for issuing the license has increased from \$0.50 to \$1.00 for each license privileged sold.
- An increase of \$5.00 has been proposed for each license and permit sold except for youth licenses. If approved, effective July 1, 2006 the fees will be higher than the amounts printed in this publication.
- A new Sportsman's License is available to residents 16 years of age or older. See page 6.
- The resident freshwater and saltwater combined license is now \$24.50 instead of \$19.50, and the non-resident fresh and salt combined license is \$42.50 instead of \$37.50.
- There is no longer a fee to visit a State Fish Hatchery.

Game/Sport Fish Regulations

- Bass length limits no longer exist for Lake Anna, Beaverdam Creek Reservoir (Loudoun County), Chesdin Reservoir, Occoquan Reservoir, and Appomattox River (only the statewide 5 per day applies now).
- James River upstream from the 14th Street Bridge in Richmond now has the "no bass 14 to 22 inches, only 1 per day longer than 22 inches," regulation (see table page 10).
- New River from Fields Dam (Grayson County) downstream to West Virginia now has a "no bass 14 to 20 inches, only 1 per day longer than 20 inches" bass regulation (does not include Claytor Lake) and a "1 per day, no muskellunge less than 42 inches" musky regulation (does include Claytor Lake) (see table page 10 for bass and page 12 for musky).
- North Fork Holston River "No bass less than 20 inches, only 1 per day longer than 20 inches" section was expanded upstream to the Rt. 91 Bridge above Saltville (see table on page 10).
- Buggs Island (Kerr) Reservoir including upstream sections of Staunton and Dan rivers have new striped bass split-season creel and length limits: Oct 1–May 31, 2 per day, no striped bass less than 26 inches; June 1–Sept. 30, 4 per day, no length limit (see table page 11).
- Smith Mountain Lake including an upstream section of Roanoke River have new striped bass split-season creel and length limits: 2 per day all year; Oct 1–May 31, no striped bass 26 to 36 inches; June 1–Sept. 30, no length limit (see table page 11).
- Philpott Reservoir has been added to reservoirs that have a "no walleye less than 18 inches" regulation (see table page 12).

- New statewide creel/length limit for blue catfish is as follows: "only 1 blue catfish per day longer than 32 inches" (see table page 13).
- Meherrin River, Nottoway River, Blackwater River (Chowan Drainage), North Landing and Northwest Rivers, and their tributaries plus Back Bay have new regulations as follows: striped bass—2 per day, no striped bass less than 18 inches; American and hickory shad—10 per day, no length limit; anadromous alewife and blueback herring—no daily or length limits (see table pages 12 for striped bass, 14 for shad, and 14 for herring).

Trout Regulations

- There is no longer a special 16-inch minimum trout size limit on Philpott Reservoir.
- Cabin Creek in Grayson County was added to the list of "9-inch minimum size, only artificial lures with single hooks" special trout regulation streams (see page 16).
- Delayed Harvest Stream changes: expanded the Chestnut Creek (Carroll County) section to 11.4 miles and added a new 2.7-mile section of Peak Creek (Pulaski County) (see page 17).
- The entire Trout Guide, with stocking tables and maps, is in this booklet on pages 50 to 67.

Nongame Fish, Reptiles, Amphibians, and Aquatic Invertebrates

- Candy darter, eastern hellbender, diamondback terrapin, and spotted turtle cannot be collected or possessed (see page 18).
- Catfish, shad and herring creel (possession) limits are found in the table pages 13 and 14.
- Salamanders used as bait must be less than 6 inches long. (See page 18.)
- Crayfish can no longer be bought or sold, like salamanders and madtoms. (See page 18.)
- The daily creel (possession) limits for shad and herring taken by dip nets are the same as those found in the table on pages 13 and 14.
- Nottoway River was added to the waters where it is unlawful to take mussels for any purpose (see page 19).
- Exotics added to the list of species that cannot be imported, possessed, or sold in Virginia: New Zealand mudsnail, quagga mussel, rusty crayfish, and Australian crayfish (see page 19).
- Snakehead fish caught from Virginia waters can now be possessed provided they are immediately killed and reported to DGIF (see table page 14 and pages 19 and 79.)

Fishing License Information and Fees

Who Can Buy a Resident License:

- (1) persons who have been a bonafide resident of the city, county, or state for six consecutive months immediately preceding the date of application for license;
- (2) persons who have been domiciliary residents of the state for at least two months upon approval of a completed affidavit to be furnished by the Game Department;
- (3) legal voters in Virginia;
- (4) members of the armed forces if they reside in the Commonwealth and are on active duty and are stationed at military installations within, or on ships based in the Commonwealth;
- (5) students (including nonresident students boarding on campus) residing in Virginia who are enrolled in bonafide Virginia schools;
- (6) unnaturalized owners of real property in Virginia who have resided in a county for five years immediately prior to making application for a license may apply for resident licenses only in the county where they qualify.

Every person who is required to have a license must carry such license and shall show the license immediately upon demand of any officer whose duty it is to enforce the game and inland fish laws, or upon the demand of any owner or lessee, or any employee or representative of such owner or lessee, upon whose land or water such person may be hunting, trapping or fishing.

No state or county resident license to hunt, trap or fish in or on the lands or inland waters of this Commonwealth shall be deemed to be issued until the certificate printed on the reverse side of that license shall have been signed by the named licensee.

License Exceptions

All persons, except those listed below, must purchase the proper licenses before fishing.

- Resident or non-resident landowners, their spouses, their children and grandchildren and the spouses of such children and grandchildren, or the landowner's parents, resident or non-resident, do not need a license to hunt, trap or fish within the boundaries of their own lands and inland waters.
- Residents under 16 years of age (also do not need a trout license).
- Tenants, on the land they rent and occupy, are not required to have a license, but must have the written permission of the landowner.
- Guests fishing in individually owned private ponds.
- Non-resident children under 12 (except in designated stocked trout waters) when accompanied by a properly licensed adult.
- Legally blind persons.
- Any Indian who "habitually" resides on an Indian reservation or a member of the Virginia recognized tribes who resides in the Commonwealth is not required to have a license; however, such Indian must have on his person an identification card or paper signed by the chief of his tribe, a valid tribal identification card, written confirmation through a central tribal registry, or certification from a tribal office.

License Year

Effective July 1, 2006, all licenses sold by VDGIF will be valid for one year from the date of purchase with two exceptions: the Deer, Bear, Turkey License and the National Forest Permit.

Replacement License

If a license is lost, a duplicate license can be obtained from any license agent..

New Customer Service Center for Purchasers of Fishing Licenses.

A customer service center has been established to help purchasers of hunting and fishing licenses. The center will be open from 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. M-F. The customer service center phone number is 1-866-721-6911. Representatives at the center will be available to answer questions about licensing, assist you in purchasing the licenses appropriate for your hunting or fishing outing, correct information on a current license or re-issue a lost license. If you have questions regarding licensing for recreational hunting and fishing in Virginia, the customer service center is your single phone call to get an answer.

How to Obtain a License

There are four ways to get your fishing license:

- ◆ Online: At the Department's Web site. Select the license(s) you want, pay with your VISA or MasterCard, and print your license(s) after you pay.
- ◆ Telephone: Licenses can also be purchased by phone by calling 1-866-693-9157. Authorization number provided allows immediate fishing and a printed license is mailed later (usually 5-7 days following purchase).
- ◆ In Person: Sold by some clerks of the Circuit Court and hundreds of license agents located around the state. An issuance fee of \$1.00 will be added to each privilege sold.
- ◆ By Mail: Download and complete the proper form from the Department's Web site and mail it to the address provided.

**It is unlawful to fish on waters
of any public or private club,
association or preserve
without a proper license.**

License Fees

At the April 25, 2006, meeting the Board of DGIF proposed to increase all hunting, trapping and fishing license and permit fees \$5.00 each for persons age 16 or older. Final Board action will be taken at the meeting on June 20, 2006, and any increase will be effective on July 1, 2006.

REMINDER: Effective July 1, 2006, all licenses sold by VDGIF will be valid for one year from the date of purchase with two exceptions: Deer, Bear, Turkey License and the National Forest Permit.

Applications for Lifetime Licenses available on the Department's Web site under "Forms" at www.dgif.virginia.gov.

Resident Fees

Sportsman's License for residents 16 years or older (includes resident hunting license, resident bear deer turkey license (valid July 1-June 30), archery license, muzzleloader license, fishing license and trout license)72.00

Freshwater fish in county or city of residence *5.00

Freshwater fish statewide *12.00

Freshwater and saltwater statewide*24.00

Freshwater statewide for 5 consecutive days (not valid in designated stocked trout waters)5.00

Freshwater and saltwater statewide for 5 consecutive days (not valid in designated stocked trout waters)10.00

65 and over license to fish freshwater*1.00

Service-connected Totally and Permanently Disabled Veteran Resident Lifetime License* to hunt and freshwater fish (available only through Richmond Office)5.00

Totally and Permanently Disabled Resident Special Lifetime License to freshwater fish *, (only available through Richmond office)5.00

Fish in designated stocked trout waters (This license required in addition to other resident licenses if fishing in these waters)12.00

Special lifetime to fish freshwater* or

Special lifetime trout license to fish in designated stocked trout waters (A valid resident fishing license is also required), both available only through Richmond office. Fees for each lifetime license are as follows:

Age up to age 44	250.00
Age 45-50	200.00
Age 51-55	150.00
Age 56-60	100.00
Age 61-64	50.00
Age 65 and over	10.00

* A valid trout license (\$12.00 annual or lifetime) is required in addition to other resident licenses only if you are fishing in designated stocked trout waters.

Nonresident Fees

Freshwater fish statewide **30.00

Freshwater and saltwater fish statewide**42.00

Freshwater fish statewide for 5 consecutive days **10.00

Freshwater and saltwater fish statewide for 5 consecutive days** (not valid in designated stocked trout waters)15.00

Fish in designated stocked trout waters (This license required in addition to other nonresident licenses if fishing in these waters)30.00

Nonresident special lifetime license to fish freshwater ** available only through Richmond office500.00

Nonresident special lifetime trout license to fish in designated stocked trout waters (A valid nonresident fishing license is also required); available only through Richmond office . .500.00

** A valid nonresident trout license (\$30.00 annual or \$500.00 lifetime) is required in addition to other nonresident licenses only if you are fishing in designated stocked trout waters.

Miscellaneous Fees

Daily Permit required at Big Tumbling Creek, Crooked Creek, and Douthat State Park Pay-As-You-Go (fee) fishing areas (required in addition to regular resident, non-resident, or non-resident 5 day license)3.50

National Forest Permit, for fishing in the National Forest this permit is required in addition to other fishing licenses [exceptions: senior (65 or older) and complimentary licenses] **Valid July 1 through June 30.**3.00

County Dip Net Permit to take shad, herring, and mullet . .3.50

(Obtain licenses from some county circuit court clerks, city corporation court clerks and other authorized agents or call 1-800-986-2628.)

National Forest Permit

All persons required to have a license (except holders of a senior citizen or complimentary license) are required to have a National Forest Permit when fishing on National Forest lands except the North and South Fork of the Shenandoah River, Skidmore Lake in Rockingham County, North Fork Pound Reservoir, Lake Moomaw, the Jackson River below Gathright Dam, and in Wilson Creek below Douthat Lake in Alleghany and Bath counties.



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Reciprocal Licenses

All reciprocal license agreements listed below refer to both boat and bank anglers.

Buggs Island (Kerr) and Gaston: Virginia or North Carolina state fishing licenses and permits are honored on those waters lying east of Brantly Steam Plant Dam on the Dan River in Virginia and the Rt. 360 Bridge on the Staunton River of Kerr Reservoir to the Gaston Dam on the Roanoke River, including all tributary waters accessible by boat from the main bodies of the reservoirs, or from the Island Creek subimpoundment. (*Note:* North Carolina regulations apply on North Carolina portions of these waters.)

Blue Ridge Parkway: Virginia and North Carolina licenses are honored on all Parkway waters. (*Note:* Virginia regulations apply in Parkway waters in Virginia except where noted herein or in federal regulations).

New River: Virginia or North Carolina state fishing licenses and permits are honored on the mainstream portion lying between the confluence of the North and South Forks of the New River in North Carolina (Alleghany County) downstream to the confluence of the New and Little Rivers in Virginia (Grayson County).

Potomac River: Virginia has reciprocal license agreements for three sections of the Potomac River, one above the District of Columbia and two below the District of Columbia. License requirements are different for these sections.

Upper Potomac River [above Little Falls (upper border with the District of Columbia) to the West Virginia border/state line]: Resident anglers with state freshwater licenses in Virginia or Maryland may fish the Potomac River and from both banks.

Middle Potomac and its Tidal Freshwater Tributaries (between Woodrow Wilson Bridge and Rt. 301): Valid Virginia freshwater and saltwater (excluding county licenses), Potomac River Fisheries Commission, and Maryland Bay sport licenses are all honored on the mainstem Potomac and Maryland tributaries up to the demarcation lines (see below); all of these same licenses, except the Virginia saltwater licenses, are honored on the Virginia tributaries up to demarcation lines (see below):

Virginia tributaries up to the following demarcation lines:

Accotink Creek: Rt. 1 Bridge
Aquia Creek: First bridge above Aquia Harbor Marina
Chopawansic: Rt. 1 Bridge
Chotank: Causeway
Dougue Creek: Rt. 235, Mt. Vernon Memorial Parkway
Four Mile Run: Rt. 1 Bridge
Hunting Creek: Rt. 1 Bridge
Little Hunting Creek: Rt. 1 Bridge
Neabsco: Rt. 1 Bridge
Occoquan River: Fall Line
Pohick Creek: Rt. 611 (Colchester Road)
Potomac Creek: Rt. 608 Bridge
Powells Creek: Rt. 1 Bridge
Quantico Creek: Rt. 1 Bridge
Unnamed bays and tributaries accessible by gas-powered boats.

Maryland tributaries up to the following demarcation lines:

Anacostia River: downstream of Northeast Branch Bridge at northbound lane of Alternate Rt. 1
Bladensburg Road, and Northwest Branch Bridge at southbound lane of Rhode Island Avenue.

Piscataway Creek: Downstream of Rt. 224 Bridge (Livingston Rd.)

Henson Run: Downstream of Oxon Hill Road Bridge

Nanjemoy Creek: Downstream of Rt. 6 (Trappe) Bridge

Port Tobacco Creek: Downstream of Rt. 6 Bridge

Mattawoman Creek: Downstream of Rt. 225 Bridge

Unnamed bays and tributaries accessible by gas-powered boats.

Lower Potomac River (between its mouth and the Rt. 301 Bridge): Valid Virginia saltwater (excluding County licenses), Maryland Bay sport, or Potomac River Fisheries Commission licenses are honored in the main stem. In Virginia tributaries below 301, Virginia freshwater and saltwater, and Potomac River Fisheries Commission licenses are honored.

Note: Maryland regulations apply for the Upper Potomac River and the Maryland Potomac River tributaries (call 1-800-688-3467 for current Maryland regulations).

Note: Potomac River Fisheries Commission regulations are enforced in the Potomac mainstem between the lower District of Columbia border and the mouth of the Potomac (call 1-804-224-7148 or 1-800-266-3904 for current PRFC regulations).

Waters between the Woodrow Wilson Bridge and Little Falls are controlled by D.C., and a D.C. fishing license is required.

Freshwater/Saltwater License Lines on Tidal Waters

Persons fishing upstream of the designated lines on the following waters must have a valid freshwater fishing license while those fishing below the lines must have a valid saltwater fishing license:

*Potomac River: Rt. 301 Bridge

Rappahannock River: Rt. 360 Bridge

Piankatank River/Dragon Run: The 1st set of power lines immediately upriver of Anderson Point

York River System (including the Mattaponi and Pamunkey Rivers): Rt. 33 Bridges

James River: A line connecting Hog Point on Hog Island (Surry County) and the downstream point of the mouth of College Creek (James City County).

Below these designated lines a freshwater or saltwater license will be valid on any tidal portion of any tributary entering the above mainstem waters.

The following waters are entirely freshwater and require a freshwater fishing license throughout: Meherrin River; Nottoway River; Blackwater River (Chowan drainage); Back Bay, Northwest River, and North Landing River and Intercoastal Waterway upstream to Great Bridge Locks; and Dismal Swamp Canal below (or South) of Deep Creek Locks.

*See reciprocal license section on this page.

General Freshwater Fishing Regulations

Fishing in inland waters must be by angling with a hook and line or rod and reel. (See exceptions for nongame fish.) A hand landing net may be used to land fish legally hooked in all waters. Any person who fishes on another's property must have the landowner's permission to do so except on designated stocked trout waters along which signs have been placed indicating that the waters are open to public fishing. No species of fish, freshwater mussel or mollusk may be taken in inland waters to be sold, except under special permits provided by law. It is unlawful to use lime, dynamite or any other substances to destroy fish, or to cast or allow noxious matter to pass into watercourses that might destroy fish or fish spawn, or to deposit trash in streams or lakes or along their banks. It is unlawful to have more than the daily creel limit of any fish in possession while afield or on the waters. The daily creel limit includes live possession of fish. It is unlawful to stock any species of fish into inland waters of the Commonwealth without first obtaining written approval from the Department (private ponds excepted).

It shall be unlawful for any person, while fishing, to remove the head or tail or otherwise change the appearance of any game fish (except bluegill sunfish and bream of the sunfish family) having a daily creel or size limit so as to obscure its species or render it impracticable to measure its total original length or count the number of such fish in possession. In addition, it shall be unlawful for any person to possess or transport such altered game fish while on the water. However, the prohibition against possession and transportation in the previous sentence shall not apply to the preparation of lawfully obtained fish for immediate use as food or any lawful commercial use of such fish.

It is unlawful to take, kill, capture, or possess any threatened or endangered species.

Virginia Game Fish

"Game fish" as defined by the Code of Virginia means and includes trout, all of the sunfish family (including largemouth bass, smallmouth bass and spotted bass, rock bass, bream, bluegill and crappie), walleye, white bass, chain pickerel, muskellunge, northern pike and striped bass.

Trout as Bait

Artificially raised rainbow trout may be sold as bait for use in the James and New rivers, and in impoundments (ponds, lakes, reservoirs), except impoundments listed as designated stocked trout waters, Lake Moomaw, and Philpott Reservoir. Persons possessing purchased rainbow trout for bait must have a valid invoice or bill of sale, specifying date of purchase, the number of trout purchased, and name of an individual or business permitted to sell trout.

Dam Regulations

Bugs Island: Mechanical lure launchers may not be used within 600 yards below Bugs Island Dam.

Walkers Dam: Only rod and reel and hand lines permitted within 500 yards below dam. It is illegal to snag fish at Walkers Dam.

Leesville Dam: It shall be unlawful to fish, attempt to fish, assist others in fishing, collect or attempt to collect bait while wading, or

operating or anchoring any vessel in the waters of the Roanoke River from Leesville Dam downstream 840 feet to a permanent overhead cable. However, fishing is permitted from behind safety railings of the Department's Leesville Dam fishing structure.

Fishways: It shall be unlawful to fish or to collect bait from March 1 through June 15 within 300 feet of Boshers Dam Fishway on the north bank of the James River or within 150 feet of Harvell Dam Fishway on the south bank of the Appomattox River.

Department-Owned or Controlled Lakes, Ponds, Streams, or Boat Access Sites

A. Motors and boats. Unless otherwise posted, the use of boats propelled by gasoline motors, sail, or mechanically operated paddle wheel is prohibited at Department-owned or controlled lakes, ponds, or streams.

B. Method of fishing. Taking any fish at any Department-owned or controlled lake, pond, or stream by any means other than by use of one or more attended poles with hook and line attached is prohibited unless otherwise posted, in which case cast nets may be used for collecting nongame fish for use as bait.

C. Hours for fishing. Fishing is permitted 24-hours a day unless otherwise posted at Department-owned or controlled lakes, ponds, streams, or boat access sites.

D. Seasons, hours and methods of fishing, size and creel limits, hunting. The open seasons for fishing, as well as fishing hours, methods of taking fish and the size, possession and creel limits, and hunting and trapping for Department-owned or Department-controlled lakes, ponds, streams, or boat access sites shall conform to the regulations of the board unless otherwise excepted by posted rules by the director or his designee. Such posted rules shall be displayed at each lake, pond, stream, or boat access site, in which case the posted rules shall be in effect. Failure to comply with posted rules concerning seasons, hours, methods of taking, bag limits, and size, possession and creel limits shall constitute a violation of this regulation.

E. Other uses. Camping overnight or building fires (except in developed and designated areas), swimming, or wading in Department-owned or Department-controlled lakes, ponds, or streams (except by anglers, hunters, and trappers actively engaged in fishing, hunting, or trapping), is prohibited. All other uses shall conform to the regulations of the board unless excepted by posted rules.

F. Fishing tournaments, etc. It shall be unlawful to organize, conduct, supervise, or solicit entries for fishing tournaments, rodeos, or other fishing events on lakes, ponds, or streams owned by the Department for which prizes are offered, awarded, or accepted based on size or numbers of fish caught, either in money or other valuable considerations. This will not prohibit events approved by the Department which are intended to promote youth fishing or provide instruction, provided no prizes, as defined above, are awarded and no participation fees are charged.

Special Regulations Smith Mountain Lake

It shall be lawful to fish using only bait with a single point unweighted bait hook (no artificial lures allowed) in that portion of

Witcher Creek in Smith Mountain Lake from behind the no wake buoy line at the mouth of the cove known as Cedar Key to the back of the cove from April 15 to May 31, both dates inclusive. A single point unweighted bait hook is defined as a hook that does not have a weight affixed to the hook. Any other weight must be attached to the line at least 12 inches above the hook (no weights below the hook).

Lick, Bear and Laurel Creeks

It shall be unlawful to use fish as bait or to use seines, nets, or traps to take fish in Lick Creek in Smyth and Bland counties, Bear Creek in Smyth County, and Laurel Creek in Tazewell and Bland counties.

Game/Sport Fish Regulations

Seasons

There is a continuous, year-round season for all freshwater game and nongame fish, with the following exceptions:

1. special times and limited closures for trout (designated stocked trout waters page 15, Trout Heritage Waters page 15, Urban Program Waters page 15, Blue Ridge Parkway page 15, and Pay-as-You-Go trout waters page 17) and
2. certain seasons for special methods to take nongame fish pages 18 and 19.

Regulations for anadromous (coastal) striped bass above and below the fall line, in tidal rivers of the Chesapeake Bay; and anadromous (coastal) American shad, hickory shad, alewife, blue-back herring, and all other saltwater fish below the fall line, in tidal rivers of the Chesapeake Bay, are set by the Virginia Marine Resources Commission. For more information call 1-800-541-4646.

Fall Line Defined: The Fall Line is defined as the following landmarks: Rappahannock River—Rt. 1 Bridge; Mattaponi River—Rt. 360 Bridge; Pamunkey River—Rt. 360 Bridge; Chickahominy River—Walkers Dam; James River—14th Street Bridge; Occoquan River—I-95 Bridge.

Catch-And-Release Fishing

It is often necessary to release a fish because it is too small, illegal to keep, or you just don't want to take it home to eat. In some cases, releasing fish unharmed is a conservation measure that will assist in helping to maintain and build population abundance and size. The Department of Game and Inland Fisheries encourages anglers who practice catch and release fishing to use a few simple precautions when doing so. Using the tips provided below will help to assure that the fish you release will survive to bite again another day.

- When catching a fish, play it quickly and keep the fish in the water as much as possible while handling. Avoid the use of a net in landing the fish and release it quickly to avoid exhaustion.
- Handle the fish gently and as little as possible. Do not put your fingers in its eyes or gills. Avoid wiping the slime or scales off the fish; this reduces their survival by making them more likely to develop a disease or infection.
- Remove hook promptly using needlenose pliers or a "hook out" device. If the hook is too deep or hooked in the stomach or throat, cut the line and leave the hook in. The hook will dissolve without harming the fish.
- Carefully revive the fish if it appears exhausted by holding it upright and moving it gently forward so water runs over the gills. Release the fish when it begins to struggle and is able to swim.
- Do not hold fish in a live well and later decide to release it. If you are going to release a fish, do so right away.
- With a little care and by following the guidelines set above, you can give released fish a better chance of survival.
- See the "Qualifying a Trophy Fish by Length and Photo" option for Trophy Fish Awards on page 68.

Free Freshwater Fishing Days

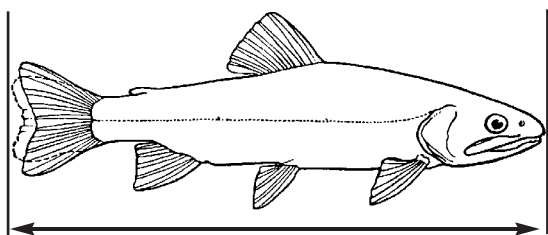
June 1, 2, and 3, 2007 have been designated as Free Freshwater Fishing Days in Virginia. No fishing license of any kind will be required for rod and reel fishing in freshwater except in designated stocked trout waters.



The tables that follow give statewide creel and length limits for major sport fish, and exceptions for major rivers and lakes. Regulations for many smaller lakes and boat access areas are posted on site, and posted regulations are in effect (see "D" under Department Owned or Controlled Lakes, Ponds, Streams or Boat Access Sites, page 8).

Type of Fish	Sub-type or Locations	Creel and Length Limit	Geographic Exceptions	Creel or Length Limits for Exceptions
Bass: largemouth smallmouth spotted		5 per day in the aggregate No statewide length limits	Lakes Briery Creek Lake	No bass 14 to 24 inches, only 1 per day longer than 24 inches
			Buggs Island (Kerr)	Only 2 of 5 bass less than 14 inches
			Claytor Lake	No bass less than 12 inches
			Flannagan Reservoir	No bass less than 12 inches
			Lake Gaston	Only 2 of 5 bass less than 14 inches
			Leesville Reservoir	Only 2 of 5 bass less than 14 inches
			Lake Moomaw	No bass less than 12 inches
			Philpott Reservoir	No bass less than 12 inches
			Quantico Marine Base waters	No bass 12 to 15 inches
			Smith Mt. Lake and its tributaries below Niagara Dam	Only 2 of 5 bass less than 14 inches
			Rivers Clinch River—within the boundaries of Scott, Wise, Russell or Tazewell counties	No bass 11 to 14 inches
			Dan River and tributaries downstream from the Brantly Steam Plant, Danville	Only 2 of 5 bass less than 14 inches
			James River – Confluence of the Jackson and Cowpasture rivers (Botetourt County) downstream to the 14th Street Bridge in Richmond	No bass 14 to 22 inches, only 1 per day longer than 22 inches
			New River—Fields Dam (Grayson County) downstream to the VA-WV State line and its tributary Little River downstream from Little River Dam in Montgomery County (This does not include Claytor Lake which is delineated as: The upper end of the island at Allisonia downstream to the Dam)	No bass 14 to 20 inches, only 1 per day longer than 20 inches
			North Fork Holston River- Rt. 91 Bridge upstream of Saltville, Va downstream to the VA-TN state line	No bass less than 20 inches, only 1 per day longer than 20 inches

How to Measure a Fish

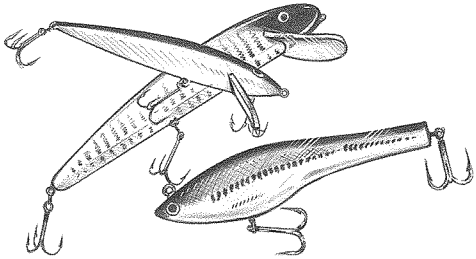


Total Length

- Lay the fish on top of or beside a flat measuring rule.
- Do not lay the rule over the curvature of the fish's body.
- Close the fish's mouth and squeeze the tail lobes together.
- Measure from the tip of the snout to the end of the tail.

Type of Fish	Sub-type or Locations	Creel and Length Limit	Geographic Exceptions	Creel or Length Limits for Exceptions
Bass largemouth smallmouth spotted			<i>Rivers continued</i> North Fork Shenandoah River- Rt.42 bridge, Rockingham Co. downstream to the confluence with S. Fork Shenandoah at Front Royal	No bass 11 to 14 inches
			Potomac River - Virginia tidal tributaries above Rt.301 bridge	No bass less than 15 inches from March 1 through June 15
			Roanoke (Staunton) River--and its tributaries below Difficult Creek, Charlotte County	Only 2 of 5 bass less than 14 inches
			Shenandoah River-- Confluence of South Fork and North Fork rivers, Front Royal, downstream to the Warren Dam, near Front Royal	No bass 11 to 14 inches
			Base of Warren Dam, near Front Royal downstream to Rt. 17/50 bridge	No bass 14 to 20 inches, only 1 per day longer than 20 inches
			Rt. 17/50 bridge downstream VA--WV state line	No bass 11 to 14 inches
			South Fork Shenandoah River-- Confluence of North and South rivers, below Port Republic, downstream to Shenandoah Dam, near Town of Shenandoah	No bass 11 to 14 inches
Striped bass	landlocked striped bass and landlocked striped bass X white bass hybrids	4 per day in the aggregate no fish less than 20 inches	Buggs Island (Kerr) Reservoir including the Staunton River to Leesville Dam and the Dan River to the Brantly Steam Plant (Danville)	October 1--May 31: 2 per day in the aggregate No striped bass less than 26 inches June 1--September 30: 4 per day in the aggregate No length limit.
			Smith Mountain Lake and its tributaries, including the Roanoke River upstream to Niagara Dam	2 per day in the aggregate October 1--May 31: No striped bass 26 to 36 inches June 1--September 30: No length limit

Type of Fish	Sub-type or Locations	Creel and Length Limit	Geographic Exceptions	Creel or Length Limits for Exceptions
striped bass continued	anadromous (coastal) striped bass above the fall line in all coastal rivers of the Chesapeake Bay	Creel and length limits shall be set by the Virginia Marine Resources Commission for recreational fishing in tidal waters		
	striped bass in the Meherrin, Nottoway, Blackwater (Chowan Drainage), North Landing and North-west rivers and their tributaries plus Back Bay	2 per day No striped bass less than 18 inches		
White bass		5 per day No statewide length limits		
Walleye		5 per day	Flannagan, Philpott and South Holston reservoirs	No walleye less than 18 inches
		No statewide length limits	Claytor Lake and New River upstream of Claytor Lake Dam	No walleye less than 20 inches
Sauger		2 per day No statewide length limits		
Chain pickerel		5 per day No statewide length limits	Gaston and Buggs Island (Kerr) reservoirs	No daily limit
Northern pike		2 per day No pike less than 20 inches		
Muskellunge		2 per day No muskellunge less than 30 inches	New River–Fields Dam (Grayson County) downstream to the VA–WV state line, including Claytor Lake	1 per day No muskellunge less than 42 inches
Bluegill (bream) and other sunfish excluding crappie rock bass (redeye) and Roanoke bass		50 per day in the aggregate No statewide length limits	Gaston and Buggs Island (Kerr) reservoirs and that portion of the New River from the VA–NC state line downstream to the confluence of the New and Little rivers in Grayson County	No daily limit

Type of Fish	Sub-type or Locations	Creel and Length Limit	Geographic Exceptions	Creel or Length Limits for Exceptions
Crappie (black or white)		25 per day in the aggregate No statewide length limits	Gaston and Buggs Island (Kerr) reservoirs and that portion of the New River from the VA–NC state line downstream to the confluence of the New and Little rivers in Grayson County	No daily limit
			Flannagan and South Holston reservoirs	No crappie less than 10 inches
Rock bass (redeye)		25 per day No statewide length limits	Gaston and Buggs Island (Kerr) reservoirs and that portion of the New River from the VA–NC state line downstream to the confluence of the New and Little rivers in Grayson County	No daily limit
			Nottoway and Meherrin rivers and their tributaries	5 per day in the aggregate with Roanoke bass No rock bass less than 8 inches
Roanoke bass		No statewide daily limit No statewide length limits	Nottoway and Meherrin rivers and their tributaries	5 per day in the aggregate with rock bass No Roanoke bass less than 8 inches
Trout		6 per day No fish less than 7 inches	See Trout Waters, pages 15-17	
Catfish	channel, white and flathead	20 per day No length limits	All rivers below the fall line	No daily limit
	blue	20 per day, only 1 blue catfish per day longer than 32 inches	All rivers below the fall line	No daily limit, except only 1 blue catfish per day longer than 32 inches
	yellow, brown, black, flat and snail bullheads	No daily limit No length limits		
American shad and hickory shad	James River above the fall line (14th Street Bridge), the Meherrin River above Emporia Dam, the Chickahominy River above Walkers Dam, the Appomattox River and Pamunkey River above the Rt. 360 bridge, and the Rappahannock River above the Rt. 1 bridge	No possession: (catch and release only)		

Type of Fish	Sub-type or Locations	Creel and Length Limit	Geographic Exceptions	Creel or Length Limits for Exceptions
<i>American shad and hickory shad continued</i>	below the fall line in tidal rivers of the Chesapeake Bay	Creel and length limits are set by the Virginia Marine Resources Comm.		
	Meherrin River below Emporia Dam, Nottoway River, Blackwater River (Chowan Drainage), North Landing and Northwest rivers, and their tributaries plus Back Bay	10 per day in the aggregate No length limits		
Anadromous (coastal) alewife and blueback herring	James River above Boshers Dam, the Meherrin River above Emporia Dam, the Chickahominy River above Walkers Dam, the Appomattox River above Harvell Dam, the South Anna River above the U.S.Rt. 1 bridge, and in the Rappahannock River above Embrey Dam	No possession: (catch and release only)		
	below the fall line in tidal rivers of the Chesapeake Bay	Creel and length limits are set by the Virginia Marine Resources Comm.		
	Meherrin River below Emporia Dam, Nottoway River, Blackwater River (Chowan Drainage), North Landing and Northwest rivers and their tributaries plus Back Bay	No daily limits No length limits		
Other native or naturalized nongame fish		20 per day No length limits	Statewide	See page 18-19 for exceptions
	Threatened and endangered species	No possession		
Grass carp		No possession: (catch and release only)		
Snakehead fish	Anglers may possess a snakehead taken from Virginia waters if they immediately kill the fish and notify DGIF (see office listings on page 2 or call 1-800-770-4951. See snakehead identification on page 79)			
Nonnative (exotic) fish	See page 19			



Trout Waters

Designated Stocked Trout Waters

“Designated stocked trout waters” will include those waters that are stocked with harvestable-sized trout and are listed by the Director in the annual Trout Stocking Plan. These waters will only be considered designated stocked trout waters from October 1 through June 15 (trout license required). A trout license is not required from June 16 through September 30. Trout angling hours on designated stocked trout waters are from 5:00 a.m. until one hour after sunset. See exceptions for Trout Heritage Waters (below), Urban Program Waters (below) and Pay-As-You-Go Trout Fishing (page 17). Designated stocked trout waters are posted by the Department with appropriate “stocked trout waters” signs.

It is unlawful to fish in designated stocked trout waters after the daily creel limit of trout has been obtained or during the closed hours for taking trout. It is unlawful to feed, bait or snag trout in designated stocked trout waters. It shall be unlawful for any person fishing in designated stocked trout waters to use more than one rod, one line, and one baited hook (a treble hook is considered one hook); however, any combination of artificial lures is allowed. It shall be unlawful to use seines and nets in designated stocked waters, except that a hand-landing net to land fish legally hooked may be used in all waters.

Trout Heritage Waters

Trout Heritage Waters selected by the Director will be considered designated stocked trout waters, but will be closed to fishing on the Friday prior to the first Saturday in April and will reopen to fishing at 9:00 a.m. on the first Saturday in April.

Urban Program Waters

Waters selected by the Director for inclusion into the Urban Fishing Program will be considered designated stocked trout waters from November 1 through April 30 only (trout license required). A trout license is *not* required from May 1 through October 31. In addition trout may be creeled from these waters year round and the trout creel limit is 4 per day.

Trout Stocking Information

The Department has provided a telephone number to call for trout stocking information. This recording is updated each day at 4 p.m. during the stocking season. The number is 1-434-525-FISH (3474). This information is also updated daily on the Department’s Web page: www.dgif.virginia.gov.

Artificial Lure Definition

Artificial lure shall include manufactured or handmade flies, spinners, plugs, spoons, and facsimiles of live animals, but shall not be construed to include artificially produced organic baits and fish eggs that are intended to be ingested. Artificial lure with single hook shall mean any single point lure (with no multiple point hooks).

Special Trout Regulations

Jackson River: There is a 12-inch minimum size limit and 4 fish per day creel limit on trout taken from Gathright Dam downstream to the Westvaco Dam at Covington in Alleghany County. All trout less than 12 inches must be immediately returned to the water and no trout less than 12 inches may be in possession while fishing this section.

Blue Ridge Parkway: Fishing is prohibited from one half hour after sunset until one half hour before sunrise. No live or dead fish or fish eggs may be used as bait and digging for worms is prohibited. Special creel limits and other regulations for Parkway waters may be posted.

Shenandoah National Park: Only single point hook artificial lures may be used—no bait. The fishing season is all year. On those streams open to harvest, the creel limit is 6 trout per day with a 9-inch minimum size. On all other streams open to fishing, catch and release regulations apply. Contact the Shenandoah National Park at (540) 999-3500 for the annual list of streams open to harvest.

Reservoirs: There is a 16-inch minimum size limit and 2 fish per day creel limit on trout taken from Moomaw Reservoir.

Special Trout Stream Areas

Fishing in the following waters is permitted under the following regulations only:

- Only single point hook artificial lures may be used unless otherwise noted.
- No bait may be in possession while fishing these waters.
- All trout less than the minimum size must be immediately returned to the water unharmed. No trout less than the minimum size may be in possession while fishing in these waters.

Note: The special trout stream areas marked with an asterisk (*) on page 16 require a landowner permit. For further information refer to the Trout Guide on pages 50-67 or contact your local fisheries office listed on page 2.



March Brown Nymph ©Dwight Dyke

9-inch Minimum

Big and Little Wilson Creeks (Grayson County): That portion within the Grayson Highlands State Park and the Jefferson National Forest Mount Rogers National Recreation Area.

Cabin Creek (Grayson County): That portion of stream and its tributaries within the Grayson Highlands State Park and the Jefferson National Forest Mount Rogers National Recreation Area.

Conway River (Greene and Madison counties): That portion of stream and its tributaries within the Rapidan Wildlife Management Area.

Little Stony Creek (Giles County): That portion of stream within the Jefferson National Forest.

Little Stony Creek (Shenandoah County): That portion of stream within the George Washington National Forest.

North Fork Buffalo River (Amherst County): That portion of the stream and its tributaries within the George Washington National Forest.

St. Mary's River (Augusta County): That portion of stream and its tributaries upstream from the gate near the George Washington National Forest property line.

Ramsey's Draft (Augusta County): That portion of the stream and its tributaries within the George Washington National Forest.

12-inch Minimum

Green Cove Creek (Washington County): That portion of stream from Rt. 859 downstream to its mouth.

Snake Creek (Carroll County): Upstream from its mouth to Hall Ford on Big Snake Fork and to the junction of Rts. 922 and 674 on Little Snake Fork.

Smith Creek (Alleghany County): That portion from the Clifton Forge Dam downstream to a sign at the Forest Service boundary above the C & O Dam.

Whitetop Laurel (Washington County): That portion of stream upstream from the first railroad trestle above Taylor Valley to the mouth of Green Cove Creek at Creek Junction and that portion of stream upstream from the mouth of Straight Branch to a sign at the Forest Service boundary just downstream of Taylor Valley.



Brook trout; ©illustration by Spike Knuth

16-inch Minimum, 2 Fish Per Day

***Buffalo Creek (Rockbridge County):** From the confluence of Collier's Creek upstream 2.9 miles to the confluence of North and South Buffalo creeks.

***Dan River (Patrick County):** That portion from Talbott Dam approximately 6 miles downstream to a sign posted just upstream from the confluence of the Dan River and Townes Reservoir.

Jackson River (Bath County): From the swinging bridge located just upstream from the mouth of Muddy Run upstream 3 miles to the last ford on Forest Service Road 481D.

Pound River (Dickenson County): That portion from a sign 0.4 miles below Flannagan Dam downstream 1.2 miles to a sign just upstream of the confluence of the Pound River and the Russell Fork River.

Roaring Run (Botetourt County): That portion from a sign at the third footbridge above the Roaring Run Furnace Day Use Area upstream approximately one mile to a sign at the Botetourt/Alleghany County line.

Smith River (Henry County): That portion of stream from signs below the east bank of Towne Creek downstream to the Rt. 666 (Trent Hill Rd.) Bridge crossing in Bassett, VA.

South Fork Holston River (Smyth County): That portion from a sign posted at the upper Jefferson National Forest boundary downstream approximately four miles to a sign posted 500 feet upstream of the concrete Dam at Buller Fish Culture Station.

20-inch Minimum, 1 Fish Per Day, Flyfishing Only

***Mossy Creek (Augusta County):** That portion of stream upstream from the Augusta/Rockingham county line to a sign posted at the confluence of Joseph's Spring.

Catch and Release Only

***Dan River (Patrick County):** That portion of stream and its tributaries between the Townes Dam and the Pinnacles Hydroelectric Powerhouse.

East Fork Chestnut Creek (Farmers Creek) (Grayson and Carroll counties): That portion of stream and its tributaries upstream from the Blue Ridge Parkway.

North Creek (Botetourt County): That portion of stream and its tributaries upstream from a sign at the North Creek Campground.

North Fork Moormans River (Albemarle County): That portion of the stream within the Shenandoah National Park.

Rapidan River (Madison County): That portion of stream and its tributaries (including Staunton River) upstream from a sign at the lower Shenandoah National Park boundary.

Roaring Fork (Tazewell County): That portion upstream from the southwest boundary of Beartown Wilderness Area.

South Fork Holston River (Smyth County): That portion of stream from the concrete dam at Buller Fish Culture Station downstream to the lower boundary of the Buller Fish Culture Station.

Stewart's Creek (Carroll County): Within the boundaries of the Stewart's Creek Wildlife Management Area.

Delayed Harvest Waters

From October 1 through May 31 fishing on the following waters is permitted under the following regulations only:

- a. Only artificial lures may be used.
- b. No trout may be in possession while fishing these waters.
- c. No bait may be in possession while fishing these waters.
- d. Trout license required October 1–June 15.

Note: During the period of June 1 through September 30 restrictions a. through c. above will not apply and these waters are like any other designated stocked trout water (see page 15).

Accotink Creek (Fairfax County): That portion of stream from Route 236 (Little River Turnpike) downstream 1.9 miles to Route 620 (Braddock Road).

Back Creek (Bath County): That portion of stream from the Rt. 600 Bridge just below the Virginia Power Back Creek Dam downstream 1.5 miles to the Rt. 600 Bridge at the lower boundary of the Virginia Power Recreational Area.

Chestnut Creek (Carroll County): That portion of stream from the U.S. Rt. 58 Bridge downstream 11.4 miles to the confluence with the New River.

Hardware River (Fluvanna County): That portion of stream from the Rt. 646 Bridge upstream 2.6 miles to Muleshoe Bend as posted.

Holliday Creek (Appomattox/Buckingham counties): That portion of stream from the Rt. 640 crossing downstream 2.8 miles to a sign at the headwaters of Holliday Lake.

Holmes Run (Fairfax County): That portion of stream from the Lake Barcroft Dam downstream 1.2 miles to a sign posted at the Alexandria City line.

North Fork of Pound and Pound rivers (Wise County): That portion of the streams from the base of North Fork of Pound Dam downstream to the confluence with Indian Creek.

North River (Augusta County): That portion of stream from the base of Elkhorn Dam downstream 1.5 miles to a sign posted at the head of Staunton City Reservoir.

Passage Creek (Warren County): That portion of stream from the lower boundary of the Front Royal State Hatchery upstream 0.9 miles to the Shenandoah/Warren County line.

Peak Creek (Pulaski County): That portion of stream from the confluence of Tract Fork downstream 2.7 miles to the Rt. 99 Bridge.

Pedlar River (Amherst County): That portion of stream from the City of Lynchburg/George Washington National Forest boundary line (below Lynchburg Reservoir) downstream 2.7 miles to the boundary line of the George Washington National Forest.

Roanoke River (Roanoke County): That portion of stream from the Rt. 760 Bridge (Diagnids Lane) upstream 1.0 miles to a sign posted at the upper end of Green Hill Park.

Roanoke River (City of Salem): That portion of stream from the Rt. 419 Bridge upstream 2.2 miles to the Colorado Street Bridge.

South River (Augusta County): That portion of stream from Second Street Bridge upstream 2.4 miles to the base of Rife Loth Dam in the City of Waynesboro.



Pay-As-You-Go Trout Fishing

These waters are stocked regularly with catchable trout throughout the fee permit season. Anglers are required to buy a daily permit (\$3.50 plus \$.50 issuance fee) in addition to the applicable resident or non-resident license. Trout licenses are not required to fish in the areas during the fee permit season, but they are required during the non-permit period of the year. No fishing is permitted in any fee fishing area for five days preceding the opening day (1st Saturday in April). Fishing shall begin at 9:00 a.m. on opening day at all fee areas. After opening day, fishing times will be as posted. The daily creel limit is 6 trout. Fishermen are required to use separate stringers. Bait or artificial lures may be used as posted. Children-only fishing area (where applicable) regulations are posted.

Big Tumbling Creek: Area includes Big Tumbling Creek within the Clinch Mountain Wildlife Management Area. A daily permit is required from the first Saturday in April through September 30. Directions: From Saltville, VA turn left off of Rt. 107 onto Rt. 91 (1/4 mile); then right onto Rt. 634; bear left onto Rt. 613 and proceed 3.5 miles; then right onto Rt. 747 to the area.

Crooked Creek: Area is located within the Crooked Creek Wildlife Management Area in Carroll County. A daily permit is required from the first Saturday in April through September 30. Directions: From Galax, VA take Rt. 58 east to Woodlawn, VA; then take Rt. 620 south approximately 4.0 miles to the area.

Douthat State Park: Area includes Douthat State Park Lake and Wilson Creek above the lake to the park boundary and downstream to the lower USFS boundary. A daily permit is required from the first Saturday in April through June 15 and from September 15 through October 31. A children-only area is provided. Also, children 12 years and under can fish without a permit in the entire area if under the direct supervision of a permitted adult and the combined creel limit for both adult and child/children does not exceed 6 trout. Directions: Located 7 miles north of Clifton Forge on Rt. 629 which can be accessed by Exit 27 off of I-64.

Nongame Fish, Reptile, Amphibian and Aquatic Invertebrate Regulations

General

It shall be unlawful to take, possess, import, cause to be imported, export, cause to be exported, buy, sell, offer for sale or liberate within the Commonwealth any wild animal unless otherwise specifically permitted by law or regulation. Albino reptiles and amphibians and domestic animals may be imported, possessed, and sold. A list of domestic animals and the Department's official listing of "Native and Naturalized Fauna of Virginia" is available from the Richmond and regional offices.

Native and Naturalized Species

Possession Limits:

Amphibians and Reptiles—5

Nongame Fish and Aquatic Invertebrates—20

Exceptions:

1. Threatened and endangered species, candy darter, eastern hellbender, diamondback terrapin and spotted turtle—no take
2. Carp, bowfin, longnose gar, mullet, yellow bullhead, brown bullhead, black bullhead, snail bullhead, white sucker, northern hogsucker, gizzard shad, threadfin shad, white perch, yellow perch, alewife and blueback herring [see limits under Anadromous (coastal) in table on page 14], stoneroller (hornyhead), fathead minnow, golden shiner, and goldfish—unlimited
3. See page 13 for catfish and pages 13-14 for anadromous (coastal) shad and herring limits.
4. Fish bait: minnows and chubs (Cyprinidae), salamanders (less than 6 inches), crayfish, and hellgrammites—50 in aggregate unless said person has purchased fish bait and has a receipt specifying the number of individuals purchased by species. Note: Madtoms, crayfish and salamanders cannot be bought or sold.
5. Bullfrogs and snapping turtles*—15 per day
*Cannot be taken from the banks or waters of designated stocked trout waters. Taking bullfrogs with a gig or bow and arrow requires a hunting license. Taking turtles by hook and line requires a fishing license.

Methods to Capture or Take

General Methods:

Except as provided for under "Other Methods" and except in any waters where the use of nets is prohibited, the species listed in the previous section (Native and Naturalized Species—Possession Limits) may only be taken by hand, hook and line, with a seine not exceeding 4 feet in depth by 10 feet in length, an umbrella type net not exceeding 5 by 5 feet square, small minnow traps with throat openings no larger than 1 inch in diameter, cast nets, and handheld bow nets with diameter not to exceed 20 inches and handle length not to exceed 8 feet. Bullfrogs may also be taken by gigging or bow and arrow and from private waters by firearms no larger than .22 caliber rimfire.

Other Methods:

Trot Lines, juglines or set poles may be used to take nongame fish and turtles provided they are not baited with live bait (worms are permissible), except on waters stocked with trout and within 600 feet of any dam. Live bait other than game fish may be used on trot lines to take catfish in Carroll, Dickenson, Giles, Grayson, Montgomery, Pulaski and Wythe counties, and in the Clinch River, in Russell, Scott and Wise counties.

Any person setting or possessing the above equipment shall have it clearly marked by permanent means with his or her name, address, and telephone number, and is required to check all lines and remove all fish and animals caught each day.

Bow and Arrow may be used to take carp and gar (fishing license required) during day and night hours (24 hrs.), except from waters stocked with trout. Crossbows, spearguns and poisoned arrows are prohibited.

Snagging, grabbing, snaring, gigging and the use of a striking iron are legal methods to take nongame fish in certain waters in certain counties as follows:

1. In the waters of the following counties (except public impoundments, the Roanoke (Staunton) and Dan Rivers, and those waters stocked by the Department): Amelia, Appomattox, Brunswick, Campbell, Charlotte, Cumberland, Dinwiddie, Goochland (except James River), Greenville, Halifax, Louisa, Lunenburg, Mecklenburg, Nottoway, Pittsylvania, and Prince Edward.
2. From April 1 through May 15 and October 1 through November 30 during the daytime in the following waters: Buchanan County, all waters except Dismal River; Grayson County, New River; Lee County, Powell River; Russell County, Clinch River; Scott County, Clinch River and its tributaries; Tazewell County, Dry Run Creek; Wise County, Clinch River; Washington County, Middle Fork and South Fork of the Holston rivers. Creel limit: 20 suckers per day.
3. Noosing suckers (daytime only) from December 1 through February 28 in Highland County.
4. Snagging for carp and suckers during April in Wolf and Big Walkers Creek in Giles County.
5. Snagging for carp and suckers in Walkers Creek, Wolf Creek and the North Fork of the Holston in Bland County.
6. Bow and arrow and gigging for carp year round in the Shenandoah River.
7. Shooting with a rifle for suckers and carp from April 15 to May 31 during daylight hours in the shoals of the Clinch River within the limits of Scott County except, that it shall be unlawful to shoot fish on Sunday or within the limits of any town, or from any bridge. Fishing license is required. Creel limit: 20 per day.

Dip nets may be used to take shad, herring, mullet and suckers except in designated stocked trout waters, Department-owned or controlled lakes, in certain waters where anadromous shad and her-

ring can not be possessed (see pages 13 & 14 for shad and herring limits), and as restricted below. The user and all helpers (regardless of age) must have dip net permits (\$3.50) or valid fishing license. Permits are valid in the county's inland waters for which issued. All other fish species taken are to be immediately returned to the water alive.

Herring: Commercial herring dipping is prohibited in Diascund Creek in New Kent County and in Ward's, Chippokes, and Powell's Creek north of State Hwy. 10.

Suckers:

Limit of 20 per day.

Season: February 15- May 15.

Dip nets shall not be more than 6 feet square. Dip net permits are not required for taking suckers in Brunswick, Greensville and Sussex counties.

Nets and Seines are prohibited while fishing in designated stocked trout waters and for taking fish from Department-owned or controlled lakes (except as otherwise posted). Only those nets and seines listed under general methods to capture or take nongame fish (above) can be used in the public waters of the Roanoke (Staunton) and Dan Rivers in Campbell, Charlotte, Halifax and Pittsylvania counties, and in the City of Danville. Seines, nets, and traps are also prohibited in Lick Creek in Smyth and Bland counties, Bear Creek in Smyth County, Laurel Creek in Tazewell and Bland counties, and Hungry Mother Creek above Hungry Mother Lake in Smyth County. However, these restrictions do not prohibit the use of a hand-landing net to land fish legally hooked. Seasons and local restrictions governing the use of nets and seines are complex. Persons deciding to try this type of fishing should consult with the game warden stationed in the area to be fished.

Areas Restricted

Designated Stocked Trout Waters: Nongame fish may be harvested only by hook and line in designated stocked trout waters.

Mollusks: Unlawful to take mussels and the spiny riversnail (*Io fluvialis*) in the Tennessee drainage in Virginia (Clinch, Powell and



Round Goby

©illustration by Spike Knuth

the North, South and Middle Forks of the Holston rivers and tributaries). It shall be unlawful to take mussels in the James River and tributaries west of Rt. 29, in the entire North Fork of the Shenandoah River, and in the entire Nottoway River.

Salamanders: Unlawful to take salamanders in Grayson Highlands State Park and on National Forest lands in the Jefferson National Forest in those portions of Grayson, Smyth and Washington counties bounded on the east by Rt. 16, on the north by Rt. 603 and on the south and west by Rt. 58.

Non-Native (Exotic Animals)

A special permit is required and may be issued by the Department, if consistent with the Department's fish and wildlife management program, to import, possess, or sell the following non-native (exotic) amphibians, fish, mollusks, and reptiles: giant or marine toad, tongueless or African clawed frog, barred tiger salamander, gray tiger salamander, blotched tiger salamander, smallmouth buffalo, bigmouth buffalo, black buffalo, piranhas, bighead carp, grass carp or white amur, red shiner, silver carp, black carp, rudd, tench, ruffe, snakeheads, air-breathing catfish, tilapia, swamp eel, tubenose goby, round goby, zebra mussel, New Zealand mudsnail, quagga mussel, rusty crayfish, Australian crayfish, alligators, caimans, brown tree snake, crocodiles, and gavials. Anglers may legally possess snakehead fish taken from Virginia waters provided they immediately kill the fish and notify VDGIF (See office listings on page 2 or call 1-800-770-4951. See Identification information on page 79.)

All other non-native (exotic) amphibians, fish, aquatic invertebrates and reptiles not listed above may be possessed, purchased, and sold; provided, that such animals shall be subject to all applicable local, state, and federal laws and regulations, including those that apply to threatened/endangered species, and further provided, that such animals shall not be liberated within the Commonwealth.



©illustration by Spike Knuth

African Clawed Frog

Fish Consumption Advisories

Fishing provides many benefits including food and recreational enjoyment. Many anglers keep, cook and eat their catches. Fish are routinely monitored for contaminants by the Department of Environmental Quality. While the vast majority of the state's waters have no dangerous levels of contaminants, sometimes the fish in certain waters are found to contain potentially harmful levels of chemicals. When this happens, the Department of Health issues warnings for the affected bodies of water. Because the Health Department lowered their PCB advisory level and the list of advisories often changes several times in a given year, VDGIF is no longer going to try and publish a current list in this booklet. For specific, up-to-date fish consumption advisories, please go to the Health Department Web site, www.vdh.virginia.gov/hhcontrol and look under Fish Consumption Advisories or call the Health Department at 804-864-8182.

Anglers should realize that they may still fish these waters and enjoy excellent recreational fishing. Below is a section on cleaning and cooking your fish, which will help reduce contamination levels in fish you eat.

Cleaning and Cooking Your Fish

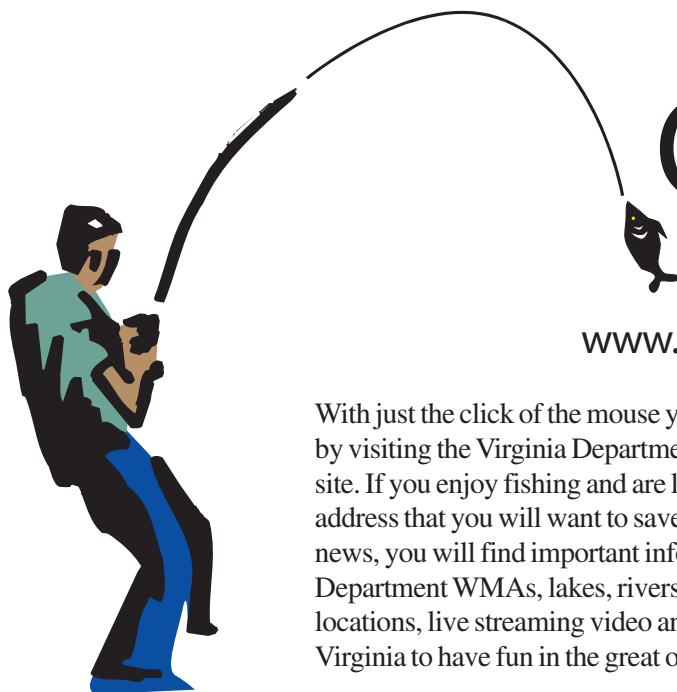
Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) and most other organic contaminants usually build up in a fish's fat deposits and just underneath the skin. By removing the skin and fat before cooking, you can reduce the levels of these chemicals. Mercury collects in the fish's muscle and cannot be reduced by cleaning and cooking meth-

ods. To reduce PCBs and other organics in your fish, consider cleaning and cooking your fish as described below.

- Remove all skin.
- Trim off all the fat, especially the belly flap, along the lateral line on each side of the fish, along the back, and under the skin.
- Bake or broil trimmed fish on a rack or grill. Cooking does not destroy the contaminants in fish, but heat from cooking melts some of the fat in the fish and allows some of the contaminated fat to drip away.
- Discard any drippings. Do not eat them or use them for cooking other foods or for preparing sauces or gravies.

IMPORTANT: The meal advice included in this information is based on fish that have been skinned, trimmed, and cooked properly.

Also remember that larger and older fish tend to collect more contaminants, and fatty fish (such as channel catfish and carp) tend to collect PCBs and other organic chemicals. Eating smaller, younger fish and avoiding fatty species can help limit your exposure. Your exposure depends not only on the contaminant levels in the fish, but also the amount of fish you eat.



Online

At

www.dgif.virginia.gov/fishing

With just the click of the mouse you can open a world of outdoor opportunities by visiting the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries' official Web site. If you enjoy fishing and are looking to catch a whopper, then this is one address that you will want to save as a favorite. Along with the latest in outdoor news, you will find important information including a complete listing of Department WMAs, lakes, rivers and streams, maps, up-to-date trout stocking locations, live streaming video and most importantly how and where to go in Virginia to have fun in the great outdoors.

Let's Go Fishing

Virginia offers excellent, extremely diverse freshwater angling opportunities. Over 176,000 acres of public lakes and 27,300 miles of fishable streams provide every freshwater angler something: tidal river for largemouth bass, striped bass, blue catfish and shad; unsurpassed float fishing smallmouth bass rivers spread across the state; expansive reservoirs renowned for largemouth bass, striped bass, and crappie; numerous “close-to-home” small, family fishing lakes and ponds with great chances to land bass, sunfish, and channel catfish; and phenomenal stocked and wild trout fishing in the Blue Ridge and Allegheny mountains. Following is information about fishing for major sport fish, public fishing lakes, major fishing rivers and the Trout Guide. For more detailed information about individual lakes and streams, and other aspects of fish, fishing, licenses, and regulations, go to our Web site at www.dgif.virginia.gov.



illustrations by Duane Raver/USFWS

Fish Identification and Fishing Information

Largemouth Bass



Common Names: Black bass, bigmouth

Identification: Sunfish family. Basically dark greenish above fading to a whitish belly, but variable depending on the water it lives in. Shows a series of dark blotches that form a dark horizontal band along its midline to its tail. Named because of its big mouth. Upper jaw extends well beyond the eye. Dorsal fin deeply notched. Average weight is 2 to 4 lbs., with up to 10 lbs. occurring in some waters.

Best Fishing: **Lakes:** Anna, Gaston, Buggs Island, Chickahominy, Chesdin, Smith Mountain, Prince, Briery Creek, Western Branch and Flannagan. **Rivers:** Chickahominy (below Walkers Dam) and James (below the fall line).

Fishing Techniques: Fly, medium spincasting, spinning or baitcasting rods and reels can all be used. Plastic worms and other plastic imitations, crankbaits, spinner baits, surface lures, jigs and other lures imitating minnows, crayfish, frogs, salamanders and nightcrawlers. For flyrodders, streamer flies, bucktails and large poppers. Live bait includes small bluegills, minnows of many kinds, crayfish, nightcrawlers, frogs, etc.

Feeding Habits: An opportunistic feeder, it eats other fish, frogs, crayfish, tadpoles, aquatic and terrestrial insects, small rodents, snakes and ducklings.

Habitat: Native to southeastern Virginia, but introduced statewide. Inhabits warm, shallow lakes, ponds and slow-moving streams, with plenty of submerged vegetation, brush, stumps and logs, usually in depths of less than 20 ft. Prefers temperatures of 68° to 78° F. In reservoirs it orients to drop-offs, ledges, underwater islands, sunken timber, boat houses, docks and bridges.

Spawning Habits: Spawns late April to early June as water warms to between 62° and 78°F. Males fan out a saucer-shaped nest along a protected shoreline area of gravel, sand or mud. Following spawning, females leave nests and males remain to guard eggs and fry.

Smallmouth Bass



Common Names: Bronzeback, black bass

Identification: Sunfish family. Coppery-brown above, with greenish-brown sides with darker vertical bars. Three dark bars radiate

from the eye on the cheek and gill cover. Dorsal fin is not as deeply notched as the largemouth. Upper jaw extends back only in line with the middle of the eye. A 4 or 5 lb. fish is considered a trophy. **Feeding Habits:** Crayfish are a favored prey as are madtoms. Also feeds on adult larval insects such as mayfly nymphs, and hellgrammites, tadpoles and other small fish.

Best Fishing: **Lakes:** Claytor, Smith Mountain, Philpott, Moomaw, and South Holston Rivers: James (above the fall line); New; South Fork, North Fork, and mainstem Shenandoah; Rappahannock (above the fall line); Maury; North Fork Holston; and Clinch.

Fishing Techniques: Fly, spinning, spincasting and baitcasting rods and reels with 4 to 8 pound test line are all suitable for taking this scrappiest of freshwater gamefish. Live crayfish, hellgrammites, "spring lizards" (salamanders), madtoms, and minnows are best live baits. Artificial include jigs, small crank baits, small spinner-bucktail combos, minnow and crayfish imitations. For fly rodding, hair bugs, poppers, and streamers are good.

Habitat: Native to Tennessee and Big Sandy River drainage streams of southwest Virginia. Introduced into all major fast-flowing rivers and cool lakes. Prefers clear flowing streams and rivers with rock, bedrock and gravel bottoms and numerous riffles, and cool deep water of large, clear reservoirs with boulders and gravel bottoms. Most active in 67° to 72°F water, and intolerant of silty, warm and polluted water.

Spawning Habits: Males build nests on sand, gravel, or rubble bottom, usually 2 to 4 ft. deep, with spawning in late April to early June as temperatures exceed 60°F. Male guards nest and fry.

Spotted Bass



Common Name: Kentucky bass, spot

Identification: Sunfish family. Much like the largemouth and the smallmouth, it is called the "in-between" species. It is distinguished from the smallmouth by the dark, blotchy lateral band from head to tail. The back of spotted bass' upper jaw lines up with the middle rear of the eye, while largemouth jaws extends past the eye. It derives its name from the black spots on its belly scales. Most are about a 1 lb. or less.

Best Fishing: **Lakes:** Claytor and North Fork Pound. **Rivers:** Appamattox, New, Pamunkey, and South and North Anna.

Fishing Techniques: Light to medium spin-casting and spinning outfits and medium bait casting rods and reels. Similar baits as for largemouth, but smaller. Spinnerbaits, top water plugs, crankbaits and fly rod popping bugs.

Habitat: Native to Tennessee and Big Sandy drainages. Found in warm, slow-moving streams and stream-like areas or riverine arms of reservoirs.

Feeding Habits: Crayfish, small fish, larval and adult insects.
Spawning Habits: Spring, when water reaches 63° to 68°F. Males sweep silt from gravel or rock bottom to make nests near brush or logs, and guard eggs and fry.

Crappie

Common Names:
papermouth, Calico
bass, specks,
speckled perch

Identification:
Sunfish family.

There are two species of crappie— the black and the white. The black crappie is covered with dark, irregular blotches and has seven—rarely eight—dorsal spines. It shows more yellowish and greenish on its sides and its caudal (tail) and anal fins are heavily flecked. The white crappie has six spines—rarely five—and it has noticeable vertical bars on its silvery sides as well as a light pearlescent color or iridescent blue and lavender. Both have protruding lower jaws.

Best Fishing: Lakes: Buggs Island, Chesdin, Chickahominy, Cohoon, Anna, Smith Mountain, Prince, Gaston, Claytor, Brittle, Moomaw, Orange, Burke, South Holston, and Western Branch. Rivers: tidal Chickahominy and its tributaries, tidal James, and South Fork Shenandoah.

Fishing Techniques: Light spinning or spincasting rods and reels with tiny jigs, doll flies, streamers, small crank baits that imitate minnows, small spoons and spinner-bucktail combinations, and spinner-grubs. Best live baits are small to medium minnows.

Feeding Habits: Minnows and other small fish are most favored, but will eat nymphs, crustaceans and insects.

Habitat: Rivers and streams of the coastal plain, millponds, swamps, tidal creeks, small lakes and large impoundments. Associates with brush piles, sunken tree tops, stumps, logs, pilings, boat docks, bridges or shallow, marshy backwater sloughs near willow, alder, bulrush or cattail-edged shores.

Spawning Habits: Begin congregating in late February just off the shallows of their spawning grounds. In early March to mid-April, they seek out gravel or sandy bottoms close to or amid sunken logs, stumps, underwater brush or other protective structure. In water depths from 2 to 15ft., they fan out saucer-shaped nests. When water is about 50°F, females spawn, leaving males to briefly guard eggs until hatching.



Black crappie



White crappie

Bluegill

Common Names: Bream,
bluegill sunfish, sun perch.

Identification: Sunfish

family. Colors are variable. Dark green, olive-green, olive brown, or bluish-black on its back, fading to yellowish-green or silvery. Normally has five to seven vertical bars extending down on each side. Lower parts of its cheek and gill cover are bluish. Its “throat” is yellow on females to bright orange on the male, brighter during spawning. Has a black, ear-like flap on its opercle (gill cover) and a black blotch at the back base of its spiny dorsal fin. Typically under 1lb. in Virginia.



Best Fishing: Lakes: Western Branch, Prince, Cohoon, Chickahominy, Robertson, Gatewood, Briery Creek, Burke, and many others.

Fishing Techniques: A number 8 or 10 hook baited with soft crickets, small nymphs, garden worms, red wigglers, pieces of night crawlers, other grubs and caterpillars on an ultralight spinning or spincasting outfit, fly rod or cane pole provides a lot of fun. Toward evening, in summer, when the shallows cool, bluegills come into shore to feed. When using bait, fish shallow with a small, light bobber in spring, deep near structure in hot summer with no bobber and lightly weighted. Effective artificials include poppers, nymphs, wet and dry flies of many types, rubber spiders, grasshoppers and crickets, and tiny jigs. Flyrodding for bluegills is especially rewarding.

Feeding Habits: A voracious feeder and usually not too fussy as to what it feeds on. Insects and insect larvae of all kinds, small crustaceans, worms and caterpillars are among its favored foods. Habitat: Quiet streams, ponds, lagoons, and small to medium-sized lakes. Bluegills gather around drop-offs near the edges of weed beds, around sunken islands, off deep points or in creek channels. Look for bluegills in the shade of piers, swimming rafts, tree-shaded shores or points, or under or alongside weed beds, such as lily pads, drop-offs close to shore, downed trees, underwater brush piles or shaded shorelines. Adult fish move to deeper cooler waters during hot weather.

Spawning Habits: Bluegill spawn in late spring and early summer as water temperatures reach 70° to 75°F. Males sweep out dish-shaped nests. Males become aggressive in defending the nest and will instinctively strike anything that intrudes upon its nest space to protect rather than out of hunger. After spawning they will remain in the shallow waters for awhile as they roam and feed.

Redear Sunfish

Common Names: Shellcracker

Identification: Sunfish

family. Yellow-green or olive, with faint vertical bars and random dark spots. During spawning, the margin of the male’s gill cover flap turns bright red.



illustrations by Duane Raver/USFWS

Body is rounded like other sunfish and has a relatively small mouth. Pectoral fins are long and pointed. They grow faster and larger than other sunfish; 1 lb. fish not uncommon and often reaching 2 lbs.

Best Fishing: Lakes: Cohoon, Meade, Prince, Little Creek, Chickahominy, Robertson, Western Branch, Lone Star, and Briery Creek. Rivers: Nottoway.

Fishing Techniques: Best time to catch redears is in the spring when they come up to the spawning beds. Being bottom feeders, most redears are caught by letting live nymphs, red wigglers or garden worms lie on the bottom near shore. Artificial jigs and grubs fished slowly and near the bottom will work as well.

Feeding Habits: Redears feed off the bottom. They have grinding (pharyngeal) teeth in their throat that enable them to crush the shells of little snails and small mussels. From this habit they get their common name, shellcracker. They are able to spit out the shell, retaining only the flesh of the shellfish. Redears also feed on nymphs and other aquatic insects.

Habitat: Introduced into Virginia waters, redears prefer cleaner water lakes and ponds than other sunfish, and quieter waters that have an abundance of submerged vegetation. They gravitate to stumps, logs, submerged brush and roots. A favorite of pond owners, because they grow fast and do not overpopulate.

Spawning Habits: April spawners and colony nesters when water temperatures reach about 70°F. They do not spawn into the summer. Nest is a saucer-shaped depression near shore in mud or sand bottom that is formed by the male who guards the eggs until fry hatch out and reach free-swimming stage. Following spawning, they move back to inhabit water between shoreline cover and deep holes.

Redbreast Sunfish

Common Names: Yellowbreast sunfish, redbelly, red throat.



Identification: Sunfish family. Basically olive to brownish gray along the back, merging to blue with a golden cast along its sides and a bright orange to yellow underside. Has several irregular bluish stripes on its cheek and gill cover. Identifiable by a long, black opercular (gill) flap. Reaches about 8 inches.

Best Fishing: Rivers: South Fork Shenandoah, Nottoway, Rapidan, Rappahannock, Maury and Cowpasture.

Fishing Techniques: Small spinner baits, spinner bucktails, grubs and tiny crankbaits. Spring and fall are the best times, but they are active throughout the summer.

Feeding Habits: Feeds on insect larvae, snails, tiny clams, small crayfish, small fish and terrestrial insects.

Habitats: Shadows and holes around submerged rocks or near shore along overhanging banks and often at the ends of long swirling currents, in streams and rivers.

Spawning Habits: Late April and early May. Male fans out a nest in coarse sand or gravel near shore in 1 to 4 ft. of quiet water. Male guards the nest and keeps eggs “dusted” of silt until they hatch.

illustrations by Duane Raver/USFWS

Pumpkinseed

Common Names: Pond perch, sun perch, sunny.



Identification: Sunfish family.

Dark, olive-green on its back, with mottled sides. Base color of sides, yellowish, spotted with orange, red and blue. Its belly is yellow to bright orange.

Cheeks and gill covers marked with alternate worm-shaped bands of blue-green and yellow. Bluish-black

gill cover flaps are edged with white, yellow, orange or blue, with a small half moon spot of red. Average 4 to 6 inches.

Best Fishing: Most lakes, ponds and rivers. Best time to catch them is in spring and early summer when they move into the shallows to spawn, but are cooperative even in the hot summertime and is commonly caught near shore throughout the warmer months.

Fishing Techniques: Relatively easy to catch. Small garden worms, red wigglers, various grubs and crickets are good live baits. An ultra light spinning or spincast rod and reel is ideal rigged with 4 to 6 lb. line, lightly weighted and fitted with a small bobber is the best outfit for sunfish. Simply cast to openings in aquatic vegetation, the edges of aquatic vegetation or gravel clearings near shore. They will hit artificials, such as wet flies and nymphs, but fish them a little slower than other sunfish species.

Feeding Habits: Insects, small mollusks and crustaceans.

Habitat: Shallow weedy waters, often in the sunniest openings, in lakes, ponds and large streams.

Spawning Habits: In late spring or early summer, after the bluegills. Fans out circular spots over gravel near shore in 6 to 12 inches of water. Very prolific, it may spawn more than once a year. Occasionally hybridizes with bluegills and green sunfish.

Green Sunfish

Common Names: Blue sunfish



Identification: Sunfish family. Basically bluish green in color, with

faint, alternating blue, brown and brassy gold stripes. Olive colored on its head with pale blue spots and wavy

lines on its upper lip. Has a dark opercle (gill flap) spot and

some orange and yellow-olive on its lower fins. Is a stocky, thick fish with a large head and large mouth.

Best Fishing: Almost any small lake, pond or quiet cove on large reservoirs.

Fishing Techniques: A ready striker of any small crankbait, spinnerbait, wet or dry flies as well as live nymphs, minnows and worms. Fish close up against the shore, often under the smallest of overhanging banks, or small dugout areas along a shallow shore.

Feeding Habits: Aquatic and terrestrial insects and insect larvae, small crayfish and small fish.

Habitat: Native to the New and Tennessee River drainages. Not numerous, but most are found in the lower Roanoke, lower Potomac and middle and lower Dan River drainages. Likes the backwater pools of slow-moving rivers, small lakes, ponds and the quiet bays and coves or large reservoirs. Not tolerant of saline waters but can tolerate turbid waters.

Spawning Habits: Spawn in late-May through August, after bluegills and in the same areas, usually with or just after the common sunfish. Fans out a saucer-shaped nest often right up against the shore in very shallow water over hard bottom.

Rock Bass

Common Names: Redeye, goggle eye and rock sunfish.

Identification: Sunfish

family. Short, robust body and fairly large mouth. Lower jaw protrudes slightly. Back is olive-green with sides tarnished gold or brassy colored. Each scale has a dark central spot. Large spots on its lower body forms a striped-like appearance. Has a discernable dark outline on its anal fin. Has wide vertical blotches on its sides and a dark spot on its cheek. Average 6 to 8 inches, but will reach 12 to 14 inches and 1½ to 2 lbs. Checks with obvious scales.



Best Fishing: Rivers: Roanoke, New, Jackson, Maury, James, Bullpasture, Calfpasture, Buffalo, North Fork Shenandoah and Clinch. Lakes: Smith Mountain Lake, Moomaw.

Fishing Techniques: Voracious feeders that readily strike spinners, jigs, small crankbaits and flies. Favored live baits include minnows, crayfish, nightcrawlers, mayfly nymphs and hellgrammites.

Feeding Habits: Crayfish, aquatic and terrestrial insects and small fish.

Habitat: Has a preference for clear flowing streams with rocks and boulders, limestone ledges and logs. Also survives in impoundments formed on the rivers they inhabit.

Spawning Habits: Spawns in May or June when water temperatures reach 60° to 70°F. Male forms a bed in the gravel, often using an abandoned nests of other sunfish. Eggs adhere to the gravel and hatched young are guarded by the male until they are free-swimming.

Roanoke Bass

Common Names: Redeye, rock bass.

Identification: Sunfish family. Robust body much like the rock bass but with dark, olive-green to olive-brown back, fading to grayish sides and white belly. Has smaller



scale spots than the rock bass and lighter small whitish or yellowish spots on its upper body. Has a slightly concave outline over the eyes. Checks scaleless or nearly so.

Best Fishing: Rivers: Meherrin, Nottoway, Blackwater, of the Chowan drainage; Roanoke/Staunton, Blackwater and Pigg of the Roanoke drainage. Lakes: Leesville Reservoir, Smith Mountain. Most of the trophy “rock bass” registered by anglers are really Roanoke bass.

Fishing Techniques: Spinning and spincasting with small to medium spinner baits, small spoons and crankbaits. Live baits include minnows, crayfish, and worms.

Feeding Habits: Eats especially crayfish and small fish, young eat crustaceans.

Habitat: Has one of the smallest ranges of native game fishes of North America. It occurs only in the Roanoke and Chowan River drainages of Virginia, and the Tar and Neuse River drainages in North Carolina. It is listed as a species of special concern because of impoundments, pollution and siltation on its native rivers. Inhabits large creeks, streams and small rivers. Prefers clear but sometimes turbid waters and the dark swamp waters such as the Nottoway and Blackwater. Look for them in fairly swift deep water runs but around rocks and gravel, or at the heads of pools.

Spawning Habits: Not a lot known about its spawning habits. Apparently nests in fairly fast currents. Constructs the circular nests in gravel or clay around mid-June. Male encourages passing females to his nest and guards eggs and larval young.

Flier

Common Names: Round sunfish, millpond flier.

Identification: Sunfish family. A

deep-bodied, almost round fish, with many spines on both dorsal and anal fins. Color is a yellow-green, or brassy-olive, to brownish-gold, with a dark brown to black spot on each scale, appearing of rows of spots. A dark vertical streak extends downward from the eye to the lower edge of its cheek. It has large, rounded fins, much like a crappie, with a head and mouth similar in shape to a bluegill's. Slow growing, they reach up to 10 inches in length.



Best Fishing: Lakes: Drummond, Airfield, Kilby, Cohoon, Meade, Lee Hall, Motts Run. Rivers: Dismal Swamp Canal, Nottoway, Blackwater.

Fishing Techniques: Most are probably caught incidentally by fishermen fishing for crappies in early spring. They will hit dry and wet flies, as well as small minnows and worms using typical small pan-fish rigs. Fish around stumps, sunken brush, cypress trunks and knees and near or under bridges.

Feeding Habits: Aquatic and terrestrial insects and insect larvae, small crustaceans, worms, small fishes and algae.

Habitat: Inhabits Virginia's coastal plain mainly in southeastern Virginia, but as far north as the Rappahannock River drainage. It favors dark, tannin-stained, acidic waters of coastal swamps, creeks, ponds and canals. Likes quiet backwaters of large rivers, impoundments and swamps with dark, acidic waters.

Spawning Habits: Spawns early in spring, sometimes as early as late-February into May. Males build nests and defend territories when water temperatures reach 55°F. Males will guard newly hatched young.

Warmouth



Common Names: Openmouth, warmouth bass, Indian fish.

Identification: Sunfish family. A large mouthed, robust fish with mottled sides and wavy lines on its cheek. Basically dark brownish above, with mottled and barred sides, and mottled or spotted fins. Can be olive-brown colored with greenish cast. Seldom gets larger than 8 or 9 inches.

Best Fishing: Numerous small lakes, ponds such as Lakes Orange, Lee Hall, and Airfield; and slow-moving, swampy rivers and streams, such as Dragon Run and Nottoway River.

Fishing Techniques: Caught incidental to other fishing activities. Will take a variety of small artificials, as well as worms, and small crayfish and minnows.

Feeding Habits: Feeds on aquatic and terrestrial insects and insect larvae, snails, crayfish and small fishes.

Habitat: Cannot tolerate saline waters, so it favors backwaters of slow-moving rivers, lakes and ponds, especially acidic, swampy waters. Can tolerate turbidity.

Spawning Habits: Spawns from mid-spring into late-summer, although not much is known about its habits. Probably fans out a nest in typical sunfish style, near some sort of cover. Hybridizes with almost all sunfishes.

White Bass



Common Names: Silver bass, linesides

Identification: Temperate “true” bass family. Light greenish back, light yellowish-green to silver sides to a silvery white below, 6 to 8 horizontal faint stripes; stripes below lateral line are broken; the first stripe below the lateral line is not complete to tail. Deep bodied with distinctively arched back, considerably smaller than its striped bass cousin. Single spine on gill cover; variable patch of teeth on tongue. Commonly reaches ½ to 2 lbs.

Best Fishing: Rivers: New, South Holston, and the Dan and Staunton (during spawning). Lakes: Buggs Island, Smith Mountain, Claytor, South Holston, and Leesville.

Fishing Techniques: Spinning or spincasting outfits with live minnows, or artificials imitating minnows, including jigs, spinner baits, streamers, spinner-bucktails, crankbaits, spoons. Easily caught during the spawning runs, also below dams in the tailraces, and by jump fishing schools in open water.

Feeding Habits: Thrives on open water baitfish. Travels in schools pursuing concentrations of gizzard and threadfin shad and other small fishes. Also feeds on insects such as mayflies, crayfish and other aquatic animals. Active feeders during their spawning runs.

Habitat: Native to the Tennessee River drainage streams of Virginia. Open water of moderate to large rivers and reservoirs with large connecting rivers.

Spawning Habits: Migrates upstream in rivers or tributary rivers of reservoirs to spawn. Spawns below dams, in riffles or other upstream barriers over gravel or rubble bottoms, typically from mid-April to late May when water temperatures range between 58° and 64°F. The eggs are broadcast and fertilized in the current where they sink and stick to gravel, rocks or vegetation.

Striped Bass



Common Names: Striper, rockfish

Identification: True bass family. Streamlined, elongate body; coloration shades from dark olive above through silvery sides to a white belly; 7 to 8 prominent unbroken black stripes originate behind the head and extend to the tail; more prominent than on the white bass. Two spines on the gill cover; two patch of teeth on tongue. Ten to 15 lb. fish are common with 30 to 40 lb. + fish landed each season.

Best Fishing: Lakes: Smith Mountain, Buggs Island, Anna, Claytor, Gaston, Leesville and Western Branch. Rivers: Staunton/Roanoke and all tidal rivers.

Fishing Techniques: Heavy baitcasting, spincasting or spinning outfits with a good backbone and 15 to 25 pound test line. Live bait includes large minnows or gizzard or threadfin shad. Large feathered or plastic jig combinations, spoons, crankbaits that imitate shad or other fish and bucktails. Trolling, drift fishing, jump fishing or deep jigging are usual fishing methods.

Feeding Habits: Like other temperate bass, they travel in schools, feeding in openwater on smaller schooling fish, such as gizzard shad. They also eat a variety of insects and aquatic organisms.

Habitat: By nature, stripers are anadromous, spending most of their adult lives in saltwater, making spring “spawning runs” to freshwater tidal rivers. However, this species has been successfully stocked in freshwater lakes, and landlocked stripers have been established in several lakes around the state.

Spawning Habits: Each spring anadromous stripers move from the ocean and Chesapeake Bay to spawn in freshwater reaches of tidal rivers. Landlocked stripers migrate up tributary rivers of larger reservoirs to spawn, often just below dams or upstream obstructions. When water temperatures are from 55° to 60°F, the females deposit their semi-buoyant eggs in the current. They are fertilized as they are being released, and they stay afloat until the fry hatch out.

Hybrid Striped Bass



Common Names: Hybrid, hybrid striper

Identification: This is a striped bass x white bass cross, with a body shape between that of striper and white bass. Silvery-white with up to 8 dark broken stripes; first stripe below lateral line complete to tail. Tongue tooth patches are intermediate between white and striped bass. Typically less than 10 lbs.

Best Fishing: Lakes: Claytor and Flannagan.

Fishing Techniques: Tackle and techniques very similar to striped bass, but often with a little lighter tackle. Shiners and a variety of spoons, crankbaits, and jigs are favorite baits.

Feeding Habits: They travel in schools, feeding heavily on young shad, but consume a variety of other prey.

Habitat: Currently only stocked in Claytor and Flannagan reservoirs. Hybrids are schooling fish of open waters, similar to the parental species. They are more tolerant of warmer water than striped bass, so they can often be found at the surface or in shallow to moderate water depths during the day.

White Perch



Common Names: Stiffback, silver perch

Identification: Not really a perch, but a member of the temperate bass family along with white and striped bass. Averages 8 to 10 inches but reaches up to 2 lbs. Silver gray above, fading to silvery white below with no longitudinal lines. Has a deep notch between spiny dorsal and soft-rayed dorsal. No teeth on tongue.

Best Fishing: Rivers: Tidal rivers and most of their tributary creeks

including the Pamunkey, James, Rappahannock, Chickahominy, Mattaponi, North Landing, Northwest and Potomac. Lakes: Western Branch, Whitehurst, Gaston, Buggs Island, Motts Run, Occoquan, Anna, Waller Mill Reservoir, Harwoods Mill Reservoir, and Back Bay.

Fishing Techniques: Live bait such as minnows, grass shrimp and blood worms, plus artificials such as small spinnerbaits and jigs. Fish near structure such as old wharves, pilings, and sunken logs, on a falling tide, which moves baitfish and shrimp out of cover.

Feeding Habits: Favored natural baits include mummichogs, mud minnows and other small fishes, insect larvae and grass shrimp. They are school fish throughout the seasons, tending to spend daylight hours in deep water, moving into the shallows at dusk to feed.

Habitat: Brackish tidal rivers and streams and freshwater impoundments of formerly tidal waters. Can overpopulate quickly.

Spawning Habits: Spawns March through early May, running up rivers to spawn over gravel and rocky areas where eggs are broadcast randomly. Lake-locked fish will spawn over similar areas in impoundments.

Walleye



Common Names: Walleyed pike, jack.

Identification: Largest member of the perch family (Percidae). Grows up to 21 inches, 3 and 4 lbs. by age three. Brassy-olive sides flecked with green and gold, and mottled by 6 to 8 obscure marking on top, white belly. Dorsal fins completely separate and unmarked, except for a distinct dark blotch at the rear base of the front dorsal fin. White blotch on tip of lower tail fin. The eye has a milky cornea, hence the name walleye.

Best Fishing: Lakes: Flannagan, South Holston, Gaston (especially below Kerr Dam), Leesville, Philpott, Chesdin, Anna, Whitehurst, Orange, Hungry Mother, Burke, and Brittle. Rivers: New, Staunton/Roanoke, South Holston, Clinch, Dan.

Fishing Techniques: Deep jigging with leadhead jigs with feathers or plastic grubs, bucktails, Hopkins spoons. Minnows, night-crawlers, spinners and deep-running crankbaits all work well. Walleyes can be caught still fishing with live minnows or shad or trolling as well. Slow retrieves normally produce best results since walleyes usually move more slowly than other species.

Feeding Habits: Avoids bright sunlight, choosing to lie in deep or shaded cover during the daylight hours. Moves onto bars and reefs near the shallows to feed at night. Natural foods include small fish, insect larvae, crayfish and other aquatic animals. In some cases, they will be active during daylight hours if its overcast or the lake is turbid to cut down light penetration.

Habitat: Native to the Tennessee and Big Sandy River drainages, which includes the Clinch and Holston Rivers in Virginia. Prefers waters that are cool. Have been widely introduced into lakes. Orients next to ledges, large rocks, underwater islands, large logs, edges of large beds of aquatic vegetation, along old riverbed channels, along reefs and bars.

Spawning Habits: Spawn as early as late-February, as water temperatures get into the upper 40s and lower 50s. Normally run rivers to spawn but they will spawn in lakes over rocky or gravel shoals, or amid clean, low-growing emergent vegetation. Eggs are non-adhesive and unattended after being released. They hatch in about two weeks.

Yellow Perch



Common Names: Ringed perch, raccoon perch, striped perch.

Identification: Member of the perch family, which includes the walleye, sauger and numerous small darters. Generally olive-green above, fading down the sides to green or yellow-green, to yellow or golden yellow. Has eight vertical dusky bars on its side and a silvery, underside. Dorsal fins have a distinctive dusky blotch. Ventral and anal fins are yellow to orange, turning a bright orange on breeding males. Average 6 to 8 inches, but commonly reach 14 to 15 inches and 1½ to 2 lbs.

Best Fishing: Brackish water tributaries of the Chesapeake bay and Potomac River. Top waters here include Machodoc, Maddox, Aquia and Occoquan Creeks. Rivers: Potomac, Rappahannock, Chickahominy, Nottoway and New. Lakes: Western Branch, Prince, Waller Mill, Little Creek, Moomaw and Claytor.

Fishing Techniques: Ready feeders, but cautious biters and slow movers. Locate schools of fish by drift fishing or use deep jigging methods. Small minnows are the best overall bait. Other popular live bait include mummichogs, mayfly nymphs, worms and grubs. They'll also hit fish eyes, cut bait and pork rind, as well as artificials tipped with some of the above, including small spoons, spoon hooks, spinners, bucktails, spinner baits and streamers.

Feeding Habits: Juvenile perch feed on plankton, turning to aquatic insects, then small fishes as they grow larger. Occasionally they feed on crayfish, snails and other invertebrates, and the eggs of other species.

Habitat: Found mainly in piedmont and coastal plain waters, where they thrive in tidal rivers and streams, extending into brackish water. Also common in many reservoirs. They locate in pools and backwaters where they school along shallow vegetated areas during warmer months.

Spawning Habits: Run in schools up tributaries to spawn in late February or early March when water temperatures reach 45° to 50°F. Also seeks out shallow shoals in lakes where water movement

will aerate eggs. No nest is built, and the females release eggs in long gelatinous "ribbons" or "streamers" which are fertilized by the males as they are released. Spawning activity takes place at night.

Sauger



Common Names: Sand pike, jack salmon.

Identification: A member of the perch family, very similar to walleye. Its best identifying marks are its spotted spiny dorsal. Its body colors are more of a dusky-brown to yellowish-olive, with large, irregular patches on its side, peppered in between with smaller dark markings and a white underside. Very slim build in comparison to walleye. Has a silvery, reflective eye similar to the walleye's, and a mouth full of canine teeth. When handled, it flares out its gills, flattens its head and shivers as if bracing itself for the hook removal. Typically 10 to 19 inches.

Best Fishing: Rivers: Clinch and Powell.

Fishing Techniques: Minnows are the best bait. Sauger tend to feed on or near the bottom. Some of the best fishing is below dams in the tailwaters. Early morning and evening are best times. They will hit fairly large minnows and are "lazy" hitters. Are quite adept at "stealing" bait. Will hit spoons, jigs or spinners, especially if tipped with a minnow.

Feeding Habits: They feed on small fishes, insects and insect larvae, and crustaceans. Tend to feed on or near the bottom.

Habitat: A fish of larger lakes and rivers that is tolerant of a certain degree of turbidity. Favors deeper channels or old river beds, and tailrace waters of dams. In Virginia it inhabits the rivers of the Tennessee drainage.

Spawning Habits: From March to May, usually in shallows over rocky reefs, or along sandy shores or shoals where water action aerates its eggs. It may also spawn in the deep rocky runs of rivers. Semi buoyant eggs are scattered amid rocks, fertilized by the males as they are released.

Northern Pike

Common Names: Pike, pickerel, jackfish.

Best Fishing: Lakes: Orange, Occoquan, Motts Run, and Arrowhead (Page)



Fishing Techniques: Still fishing with large minnows or other bait-fish, or casting or trolling with large spoons, spinner-bucktails or crankbaits.

Identification: Member of the pike family (Esoxidae). A long, lean body, generally olive or dark green above fading to a light olive or gray-green to yellowish-green then to white on its belly. Its sides have light yellowish bean-shaped spots the length of its body. Strongly toothed jaws have teeth arranged in rows, plus rows of teeth located on its tongue and palate; they angle inward so its prey cannot get loose. Cheek is fully scaled, gill cover is only half scaled.

Feeding Habits: Eats other fish, including minnows of all sizes, suckers, shad, and yellow perch. Will take fish almost its own size on some occasions. Also feeds on frogs, salamanders, worms, insects, mice, muskrats, snakes, ducklings, other birds and any other terrestrial animals that blunder into the water.

Habitat: Non indigenous to Virginia, they are found in shallows in spring and fall, around weed beds. In summer they seek out deeper waters near drop-offs, but seldom below 35 ft. They may move up creek arms or around underground springs where there is cooler, moving water.

Spawning Habits: Spawns early in spring. Females broadcast adhesive eggs, which are fertilized as they drop to the bottom vegetation. Eggs are abandoned and hatch in 2 to 3 weeks. Young attach to vegetation by means of a suction cup-like appendage on the top of its snout.

Chain Pickerel



Common Names: Chainsides, jackpike, pike.

Identification: A member of the pike family, it is named for its chain-like markings on its sides. Also has a black vertical mark under its eye. Normally its fin is unmarked. Averages 1.5 to 3 lbs and tends to be a little stockier than its cousin the northern pike. Fully scaled on both cheek and gill cover.

Best Fishing: Rivers: Nottoway, Blackwater, Chickahominy, Dragon Run. Lakes: Chickahominy, Gaston, Western Branch, Diascund, Burnt Mills, Prince, Anna, Cohoon, Little Creek, Moomaw, Douthat and many other rivers, ponds and lakes.

Fishing Techniques: Best time is from October through March. Most active when water temperatures are 55° to 70°F. Spinners, spoons, bucktails, jigs, pork rind baits and a variety of crankbaits will take pickerel. Minnows are the best live bait. Fish the edges of weed beds, lily pad beds, sunken brush or tree stumps.

Feeding Habits: Feeds on small fish, insects, worms, snakes, salamanders, frogs, tadpoles and small mammals. Pickerel tend to be solitary fish, lurking hidden in the aquatic vegetation, waiting for prey to swim or drift by. They feed day or night, year round, but mostly in early mornings and evenings. While they are mostly terri-

torial and stick to a relatively small area, they are more active and may roam and search for food during the cooler months.

Habitat: Common in rivers and streams, they are also found in reservoirs and impoundments on the rivers they inhabited. Even in the smallest of creeks you may find pickerel. Prefers shallow, weedy waters.

Spawning Habits: They spawn in early spring, broadcasting their eggs over vegetation in water a foot or two deep. Young attach to vegetation until they use up their egg sack.

Muskellunge



Common Names: Musky, muskie

Identification: Largest member of the pike family. Normally olive to dark gray on its back, with grayish to bluish to yellowish sides. Sides may have faint vertical bars, spots or blotches.

Feeding Habits: Muskies eat mainly other fishes, especially soft-rayed species such as suckers, carp and shad, but also frogs, ducklings, muskrats and other mammals.

Best Fishing: Rivers: James, Clinch, Shenandoah and New. Lakes: Smith Mountain, Claytor, Rural Retreat, Burke, and Flannagan.

Fishing Techniques: River fishermen use small boats with electric motors or small outboards to float larger pools and fish shoreline snags and submerged brush. Heavy bait casting rods and reels with 30+ lb. test line is used. Using large hooks, 4/0 or larger, some anglers simply allow 8 or 12-inch suckers, shad or carp to swim free. Muskies are commonly caught in lakes by trolling deep water with large crankbaits, spoons and spinner-bucktail combinations. Early in the year, try trolling across shallow points.

Habitat: Not believed to be native to Virginia, but introduced into the New, Clinch, James, Shenandoah and Holston Rivers, and some impoundments. Muskies prefer cool, clear lakes with abundant vegetation or long pool areas of rivers near fallen trees and other submerged structure.

Spawning Habits: Muskies spawn in early spring. Eggs are fertilized and discharged over muck or marl bottoms with aquatic vegetation in shallow bays and coves of lakes, or in eddies above or below riffles in stream. In Virginia most musky populations are maintained through stocking.

illustrations by Duane Raver/USFWS

Rainbow Trout



Common Names: rainbow

Identification: The variety of rainbows has resulted in a variety of colors, hues and markings. Normally the back is olive-green with a silvery cast on its sides fading to a silvery white belly. A pinkish or light rosy red band extends from its cheek to near its tail. Normally, they are well spotted with black spots, but vary from large spots to tiny specks to no markings at all.

Best Fishing: Well-established in streams of the southwestern region of the state and are found in a myriad of mountain streams in western Virginia. Lakes: Moomaw. Rivers and Streams: Smith River, Elk Creek, Dan River, Potts Creek, Cripple Creek, Roanoke River, Little Reed Island Creek, Jackson River, Crooked Creek and Big Tumbling Creek, and many others on both sides of the Blue Ridge. Some good wild streams are Whitetop Laurel, Fox Creek, and the South Fork Holston River.

Fishing Techniques: Hits dry flies, wet flies, streamers, nymphs, small spinners and spinner-bucktails, spoons, as well as worms, live nymphs, minnows and salmon eggs. Hatchery trout readily take kernel corn and colored marshmallows. Berkeley Power Baits that give off a scent and can be shaped on the hook are used extensively by anglers.

Feeding Habits: Eats a variety of aquatic and terrestrial life. Large rainbows will eat small fish, but their main diet is invertebrates. In very cold climates, they ingest minute aquatic organisms through fine gill-rakers.

Habitat: Originally native to the western slope of the Rockies. Successfully introduced into eastern streams including those in Virginia. Most Virginia rainbows are in fast flowing, larger streams and constitute the backbone of the Department's stocking program.

Spawning Habits: Majority of rainbows in Virginia are stocked fish. There are a good number of wild fish in Mount Rogers Area streams. When spawning occurs it is at the lower ends of pools or in riffles where the female digs out a spawning bed or "redd." Rainbows in their natural state spawn in spring.

Brown Trout



Common Names: English brown trout, German brown trout, European trout.

Identification: Colors vary widely. Natural wild browns are olive-brown on the back, lighter on the sides, brilliant yellow-gold on their underside, with yellowish-green, unspotted fins. They have numerous black or dark brown spots on their sides, along with a sprinkling of red spots encircled with light blue rings. Hatchery-reared browns tend to be more silvery with dark brownish above with light yellow undersides and spots of a lighter shade.

Best Fishing: Lakes: Moomaw. Rivers and Streams: Little River, Mossy Creek, Potts Creek, Back Creek, Jackson River, Smith River and a wide array of others on either side of the Blue Ridge and in Southwestern Virginia.

Fishing Techniques: Will rise to dry flies as well as hitting wet flies, streamers and nymphs. Worms, live nymphs, minnows and salmon eggs are good too. Brown trout tend to be bigger "meat eaters" in that they'll take larger live baits more readily and will hit spinners, spinner bucktail combinations, as well as small crankbaits and spoons. Live baits and wet flies are normally fished downstream while dry flies are fished upstream.

Feeding Habits: Aquatic and terrestrial insects, mollusks, small fish, crayfish, salamanders, frogs, even small mammals or birds. Fish and crayfish are the main diet of larger browns.

Habitat: Usually in larger waters with plenty of rock structure, submerged logs and overhanging banks.

Spawning Habits: They spawn naturally in fall. Females fan out up to four different nests. They spawn in tributary stream or shallow shoal waters.

Brook Trout



Common Names: Native, brookie, mountain trout, speckled trout.

Identification: Most colorful of our trout. Back is a dark olive-green with light wavy or wormy markings. Sides are lighter, sometimes with a bluish cast, yellowish spots and red spots with a light blue halo around them. Belly is white with bright orange fins. Fins have outer edges of white with a black line separating it from the orange. Ten to 16 inches and 1 to 2 lbs. is a good-sized brookie. Native brookies seldom grow beyond 12 inches in Virginia streams.

Best Fishing: Over 400 streams or portions of stream contain brook trout. Many of the streams and ponds in the Shenandoah National Park and the George Washington and Jefferson National Forest have native brook trout. Rivers and Streams: Crooked Creek, Little Stoney Creek, Rapidan River, Rose River, Hughes River, Jeremy's Run, Laurel Fork and Dry River. Lakes: Laurel Bed, Coles Creek and Mill Creek reservoirs, Lexington City Reservoir and Switzer Lake.

Fishing Techniques: For the purist, dry flies, wet flies, streamers and nymphs are used. Nymphs early in the season, dry flies when the natural insects hatch. Live bait anglers use garden worms and caddis, mayfly and stonefly nymphs also early in the year when these

aquatic larvae are available naturally. In deep pools small minnows may be effective year round.

Feeding Habits: Feed mainly on insect larvae for most of their lives, including caddis and mayfly nymphs, but also on small fish and crayfish. Tend to be mostly daytime feeders.

Habitat: Colder, cleaner waters and smaller creeks and beaver ponds. Does best in water temperatures of 68°F or less.

Spawning Habits: Spawns in October and November in the headwaters of small streams, usually the tail of a pool. Female excavates a spot in the gravel and releases her eggs and the male releases milt over them at the same time. The female will fan a loose covering of gravel over the eggs to protect but not smother them.

Flathead Catfish



Common Names: Mud cat, shovelhead cat, yellow cat.

Identification: Broadly flattened head with a lower jaw that projects beyond the upper jaw. Tail only slightly notched and adipose fin is relatively large. Body is yellowish or cream-colored, with black, dark brown or olive-brown mottling on back and sides, fading to dirty white or yellow. Younger fish have darker, bolder markings and the upper tip of the tails have white, triangular patches.

Best Fishing: Rivers: James, New, Staunton/Roanoke and Occoquan Creek. Lakes: Occoquan, Claytor and, Flannagan, Smith and Buggs Island.

Fishing Techniques: Use live bait since they aren't easily attracted to catfish baits normally used for other catfish, although chicken entrails, nightcrawlers, and minnows work well. Usually caught on the bottom of deep pools or in tailraces below dams.

Feeding Habits: More solitary than other catfish. Omnivorous, they feed at night on almost anything, including other fish, crustaceans, mollusks, insect larvae and terrestrial creatures washed into the river. More than other catfish they feed on other live fish. Sometimes they feed near the surface and occupy water shallower than most catfish.

Habitat: Found in large, rivers, inhabiting deep, slow stretches near strong currents. Prefers structure like submerged logs, brush, rip rap, and underwater piles of debris.

Spawning Habits: Summer, when water temperatures reach 72° to 84°F. Eggs are laid in depressions scooped out of the bottom, in hollow logs or in holes along the bank. After hatching, fry gather in compact schools guarded by the male. As they grow older, they become solitary.

Blue Catfish



Common Names: forked-tailed cat, humpback blue, chucklehead

Identification: Heavy-bodied with a wide head and high spot forward of center near the head called the dorsal hump. Upper jaw projects well beyond the lower. Bluish-gray body above, fading to white on sides and belly. No spots and a deeply forked tail. Smaller blue cats are often confused with channel catfish. Blue cats are often confused with channel catfish. Small channel cats typically will have spots lacking in small blue cats. However, large channel cats and medium-sized blue cats can be more difficult to tell apart, often having similar coloration and general body shape. The margin, or edge, of the anal fin can be used to identify these fish; blue cats have an anal fin with a very straight margin, in channel cats the anal fin has a rounded margin. Biologists and anglers can definitively distinguish between the two species by counting anal fin rays; 30-35 rays on the blue cat's anal fin versus the channel cat's 25 to 29 rays.

Best Fishing: Rivers: James, Mattaponi, Pamunkey, Rappahannock, Staunton and Appomattox. Lakes: Buggs Island.

Fishing Techniques: March through May are the best months, but they are caught year round. Use heavy tackle with cut bait, live herring, shad, or peeler crabs.

Feeding Habits: Omnivorous, but feeds naturally on fish, crayfish, and mollusks, and scavenges on dead or dying aquatic and terrestrial animal matter. Sense of taste and smell are more important than sight in obtaining food, and whiskers are used for this purpose.

Habitat: Stocked in the Rappahannock, James, and Mattaponi rivers, as well as a few lakes. These fish are now also found in the Appomattox, Pamunkey/Dragon Run, and Potomac rivers. They are highly abundant in all of the tidal rivers in which they are found and occupy most habitats which occur in the freshwater, or slightly brackish, sections of these rivers.

Spawning Habits: They spawn in late spring and early summer, when water temperatures reach 70° to 75°F. Eggs are laid in masses in nests formed under logs or other submerged structure, or along undercut river banks. Young school-up after hatching.

Channel Catfish



Common Names: Spotted catfish, speckled catfish, silver catfish, fork-tailed catfish.

illustrations by Duane Raver/USFWS

Identification: Deeply forked tail. Upper jaw is longer than, and overlaps the lower. When small, its smooth-skinned body is usually spotted; however, these spots disappear in older fish (can be confused with blues catfish, see identification of blue catfish). Has a small dorsal fin with stiff spine standing high on its back. It has eight barbels, or feelers, four located under the lower jaw, two on top and one at each end of the upper jaw. Barbels contain taste buds, which help it find food. Varies in color, although generally dark brownish to slate-gray on top, fading to light brownish-gray on the sides. Has 25 to 29 rays on its anal fin.

Best Fishing: Rivers: Rappahannock, Appomattox, Chickahominy, Mattaponi, Pamunkey, New, Shenandoah, and North Landing. Lakes: Buggs Island, South Holston, Claytor, Anna, Chesdin, Flannagan, and most small public lakes.

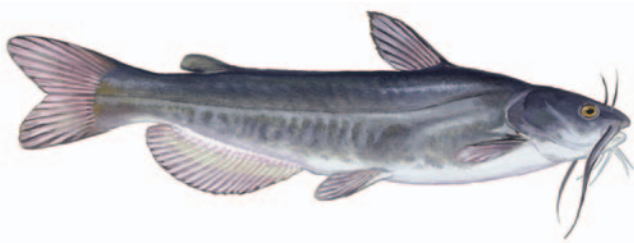
Fishing Techniques: Rod and reel anglers catch them on clam snouts, peeler crabs, large minnows, nightcrawlers, cut up herring, chicken livers or entrails, shrimp and a variety of stink or dough baits. They take a variety of artificials as well including crankbaits, jigs and spinners.

Feeding Habits: A variety of insects, vegetation, crustaceans, mollusks, fish eggs, fish and carrion of many types, constitutes its menu. Wandering nocturnal feeders, they spend daylight hours in deep holes around brush piles or in and along river channels.

Habitat: Lakes and larger rivers with cleaner bottoms of sand, gravel or stones, over mud flats but seldom in dense weedy areas. Also lives in the deeper, slower pools of swift, clear-running streams. In large reservoirs, they are often found below dams where they feed on food swept down to them.

Spawning Habits: From late May through July when water temperatures reach the mid-70s. Rocky ledges, undercut banks, hollow logs and other underwater structures are spots generally chosen to lay their pea-sized eggs. Male guards the nest, and the eggs hatch in 7 to 10 days. The fry travel in tight-packed schools, often herded and guarded by the male.

White Catfish



Common Names: forked-tailed cat

Identification: One of the bullhead catfishes. Average 8 to 18 inches, rarely 20. Has a moderately forked tail, a stocky body with its upper jaw extending slightly beyond lower. Color is basically blue-gray above, fading to gray on its sides with a white underside. Occasionally mottled light gray on its sides.

Best Fishing: The Potomac, Rappahannock, and York River drainages in the Coastal Plain and numerous lakes in southeast and central Virginia.

Fishing Techniques: Many of the same methods used for other catfish. Worms, minnows, scented baits, fished on or near the bottom.

Feeding Habits: Adults are omnivorous and eat a variety of aquatic invertebrates, small fishes and vegetation.

Habitat: Warm ponds and lakes, medium to large rivers, sometimes small streams and some brackish and acidic waters. Usually fairly deep in lakes and rivers.

Spawning Habits: Spawning probably takes place beginning in late May into July. Both sexes participate in the preparation of the nest, which is a fairly large depression scoured out over sand or gravel. Eggs are guarded and kept clean by one or both parents.

American Shad



Common Names: white shad.

Identification: Largest of the river herring Family, American shad average around 3 lbs., with fish up to 6 lbs. common. Silver-sided with greenish-blue back; deep bodied from the side, narrow and symmetrical top to bottom head-on; row of dark spots on the sides, running back from the gill cover; the upper and lower jaws are equal length when the mouth is closed.

Best Fishing: Rivers: James(Richmond fall line areas), Mattaponi, Pamunkey

Fishing Techniques: Harvest of American shad in not legal; catch and release only. Best time from mid-March to early May in fall line areas of tidal rivers as adults return to spawn. Light spincasting rods and reels, with 1/32 to 1/8 oz., brightly colored shad darts, spoons, jigs, or small minnow imitation lures. Fly fishing with darts, gold or white soft-bodied streamers, and other wet flies. Increased success in deeper water; do not usually jump but give a good fight; need to be carefully played to avoid tearing delicate mouth.

Feeding Habits: Young shad in fresh and tidal portions of rivers feed on zooplankton (microscopic animals) and insect larvae; Adult shad in the ocean eat primarily zooplankton (microscopic animals), but can take worms or small fish. During spawning runs, adults eat very little, if anything.

Habitat: American shad are anadromous; as adults they travel in large schools along ocean coastal areas for 4 or 5 years, until they are sexually mature, and then run up large rivers from saltwater to freshwater to spawn. After spawning, surviving adults return to the ocean. Newly hatched young remain in freshwater until fall; in the fall, they move downstream to brackish estuaries where they may remain for a year or more before moving out to the ocean.

Spawning Habits: Shad run up rivers in the spring as water temperatures reach the mid-50F mark. Males usually come upstream first, with spawning occurring over sandbars or rocky riffles at dusk and into the night in an average depth of 6ft. of water; peak spawning is at about 65F. Shad eggs are neutrally buoyant, floating suspended in open water until they hatch in about 4 to 12 days.

illustrations by Duane Raver/USFWS

Hickory Shad



Common Names: hickory, silver shad

Identification: River herring Family, averaging around 1 lb., with fish up to 2 lbs. common. Silver-sided with grayish-green back and a prominent dark spot, followed by a row of lighter spots (especially when fresh), on the upper part of the side just behind the gill cover; body long but compressed, asymmetrical top to bottom and in cross section it is wedge-shaped; the lower jaw protrudes significantly beyond the upper jaw when the mouth is closed. Each scale on the sides has a small dark spot.

Best Fishing: Rivers: Rappahannock (fall line area in Fredericksburg), James (Richmond fall line areas), Appomattox, Chickahominy (below Walkers Dam), Mattaponi, Pamunkey

Fishing Techniques: Because stocks are depressed, harvest is illegal above the tidal river fall lines and DGIF encourages catch and release fishing below fall lines. Mid-March into May with spring spawning run, arriving earlier than American shad. Light spin casting, using very small, brightly colored shad darts, spoons, jigs, or minnow imitation lures. Fly fishing with darts, gold or white streamers, and other wet flies. Often taken near the surface, will “tail-walk” and sometimes jump.

Feeding Habits: Adults in the ocean feed on squid, small fish, fish eggs, crabs and other small crustaceans. Like the American shad, they feed very little, if any, during their spawning run.

Habitat: Hickory shad are anadromous; adults live in coastal ocean waters, until they are sexually mature, and then move into freshwater to spawn. After spawning, surviving adults return to the ocean. Newly hatched young remain in fresh and brackish water for a short time before moving out to the ocean.

Spawning Habits: Spawning takes place in early spring and is believed to occur at night when water temperatures reach about 61°F; eggs are slightly adhesive and then neutrally buoyant and drift downstream with the current, hatching in 48 to 70 hrs.

Blueback Herring & Alewife

Common Names: river herring

Identification: Blueback herring and alewife are almost identical looking; the best way to tell them apart is an internal difference, blueback have a black membrane that lines the abdominal cavity and alewife have a light colored one with few, scattered spots. Blueback are bluish along the back with a silvery head; alewife is grayish-blue above, with a bronze head. Maximum length is 12 to 15 inches and less than 1 lb.

Best Fishing: Rivers: James (Richmond fall line areas), Appomattox, Chickahominy (below Walkers Dam), Mattaponi, Pamunkey, and most smaller tidal tributary streams and creeks.

Fishing Techniques:

Because stocks are depressed, DGIF does not encourage harvest. “Dipping” is the traditional way to capture river herring; dipping involves a large net held in the current on the bottom and the net is lifted periodically as fish run up against

the current and get trapped in the net. A few hook and line anglers take herring using tiny spoons, darts, or just plain gold hooks, fished in fast waters in the upper ends (fall line areas) of streams and creeks.

Feeding Habits: Herring are pelagic, schooling and feeding in mid-water or at the surface, preying on zooplankton, as well as shrimp, other small crustaceans, small fish, and fish eggs.

Habitat: Both blueback and alewife are anadromous, living in salt and brackish marine areas as adults and returning to freshwater to spawn. Alewife and blueback can spend their entire life in freshwater, with reproducing populations established in impoundments.

Spawning Habits: Alewife spawn earlier than blueback, with both migrating upstream in the spring like shad. Herring spawn in quieter, upper portions on streams and creeks, randomly releasing sticky eggs that sink and adhere to the bottom. The tiny eggs hatch in 2 to 3 days; young head for salt water when they are several months old.



Blueback Herring



Alewife

Carp



Common Names: German carp, European carp, mud bass, bugle-mouth bass.

Identification: Very large member of the minnow family. Thick bodied, with a brassy sheen, humped back, very large scales, large lips, barbels extending from lips, and spines on the front of dorsal and anal fins. Commonly attain 15 to 20 lbs.

Best Fishing: Lakes: Western Branch, Claytor, Prince. Rivers: Rappahannock, Pamunkey, Potomac, Shenandoah and James.

Fishing Techniques: Carp have acute senses of hearing, smell and taste, and are very skittish in clear water. They will bite in hot summer when other fish are not very active, but are a challenge to catch on hook and line. Carp often go on feeding sprees after a rain. Sometimes it pays to chum an area with kernel corn, oatmeal, cooked vegetables or similar materials. Baits include bread dough balls, canned

corn or peas, marshmallows, cheese mixed with cotton to keep it on the hook, and worms. Baits must lie on unobstructed bottom. Tackle is usually a spinning, spincasting or casting rod at least six feet long with plenty of backbone; reels should be fitted with at least 100 yds. of 12 to 30 lb. test line. Hooks from #2 down to #10 are favored, and a sliding sinker should be used because of the carp's wariness.

Feeding Habits: Carp dig down into the bottom or amid vegetation, sucking up mouthfuls of silt and debris, somehow straining out food items such as snails, mussels, vegetation, worms, aquatic larvae and organic debris through their gill rakers, then spitting out mud and other non-food particles.

Habitat: Not native to the U.S., but widely introduced in the late 1800's and found in all Virginia drainages. Prefers clean water, but capable of tolerating and dominating degraded waters. Prefers sluggish, vegetated areas with soft bottoms.

Spawning Habits: Spawns in shallow bays, tributary headwaters, marshy river sloughs and marshes, wallowing around muddy shallows amid cattails or other emergent vegetation where they lay their eggs. Broadcasts its eggs in late April and early May over and amid aquatic vegetation.

Bowfin



Common Names: grindle, grinnel

Identification: Bowfin are living relics, with primitive roots back 70 million years ago. Has a long, soft-rayed dorsal which arches in a bow over most of the length of its body. Tail is rounded, with distinct black spot rimmed with orange on males; black spot on females faint or absent and no orange rim. Its back and sides are brownish-green or olive-green, with mottled sides fading to yellowish or white. During spawning, its underside turns a bright yellow-green. Body is cylindrical and a wide flattened head, almost snake-like, with deep-set dark eyes. Snout is rounded with short nasal barbels. Mouth is large and has conical-shaped teeth. Note: While the bowfin shares similar coloration and body shape with the northern snakehead (recently introduced to the Potomac River), the anal fin of a bowfin is much shorter than that of the snakehead, and snakeheads will not have the spot found on bowfin.

Best Fishing: Rivers: Chickahominy, Nottoway, Blackwater. Lakes: Chickahominy Reservoir, Little Creek, Diascund Reservoir.

Fishing Techniques: They are strong, muscular fighters and strike viscously at all manner of live bait and many artificials. Often fools an angler into thinking it's whipped, and then suddenly explodes back into life. Minnows and a variety of jigs are best baits. Use a good stiff rod with at least 15 lb test line. Steel leaders may be necessary and don't try to lip hold these fish! Food value is generally considered poor.

Feeding Habits: Feed mainly on other fishes, sometimes on cray-

fish, mollusks, and frogs. They are nocturnal, but most active at dawn and dusk, and often go on a spree after rains have clouded the waters and washed food into rivers and lakes.

Habitat: Usually found in dark, sluggish waters with muddy bottoms and dense vegetation as well as tannin-stained swamps, rivers and lakes. Slower moving rivers or backwater sloughs of large rivers and some small lakes and ponds. Found only in eastern North America.

Spawning Habits: Spawns in April and May in marshy, weedy bays. Male forms a depression on firm bottom amid weeds, clearing all weeds away then conceals it with an umbrella of vegetation. Two females may spawn in one nest and will spawn in more than one nest in a spring. Usually spawns at night. Male guards and aerates the eggs. After they hatch, young attach to rootlets of vegetation by means of an adhesive organ, much like the pikes. The male will guard the young that travel in schools until they are about 3 or 4 ins. long.

Longnose Gar



Common Names: Billy gar, billfish, garfish, garpike

Identification: Living relic of prehistoric past; family dates back 245 million years. Nothing in Virginia is even remotely similar to the gar. The long narrow beak-like jaw, laden with sharp teeth, is the unmistakable feature. Very long, cylindrical fish with dorsal and anal fins set well back on the body, and a large rounded tail fin; note the armament of very large, hard, sharp, bony scales. Brownish-olive on its back, fading to yellowish- or olive-green to white on its belly; 2 to 3 ft in length is not uncommon.

Best Fishing: Lakes: Western Branch, Prince, Chickahominy, Buggs Island. Rivers: Chickahominy, Pamunkey, James, Rappahannock.

Fishing Techniques: Large minnows are best on medium to heavy casting and spinning tackle. They are adept at stripping bait from hooks and difficult to hook in their bony jaw. Feed at night, especially moonlit nights.

Feeding Habits: Feeds mainly near the surface on small fishes, but take in small amounts of insects and other aquatic creatures.

Habitat: Occurs in slow-moving rivers, streams, overflow ponds or large freshwater bays. Is tolerant of turbid waters and currents and will feed in fast currents or tides. Needs reasonably clear water and aquatic vegetation to reproduce. Is able to breathe by using its air bladder as a lung, and are often seen in warm weather with their "beaks" out of water, gulping air.

Spawning Habits: In spring in shallow waters, the eggs are deposited in weedy bays on submerged vegetation. They are dark in color and said to be poisonous for humans to eat. Young have a special disk on its head to attach to vegetation, much like pike fry.

illustrations by Duane Raver/USFWS

Major Fishing Rivers

Appomattox River

The Appomattox River, a major tributary to the James River, flows out of Appomattox County toward Petersburg and Hopewell, and along its course forms the boundaries between such counties as Buckingham, Prince Edward, Cumberland, Amelia, Powhatan, Chesterfield, Dinwiddie and Prince George. Lake Chesdin, just west of Petersburg, is a major man-made impoundment on the river. In addition to largemouth and smallmouth bass, the Appomattox is home to the Kentucky spotted bass. These fish were introduced into the Appomattox in the mid-1970s and they have moved throughout the river and into its major tributaries, such as Briery Creek, Bush River, and Buffalo Creek. Anglers are most likely to catch spotted bass from just upstream of Farmville down to the Amelia/Chesterfield County line at Route 360 west of Richmond.

The river also contains a wide range of species, including redbreast sunfish, bluegill, flier, crappie, pickerel and hard-fighting minnows, like fallfish and chubs. Striped bass and walleye, which run out of Lake Chesdin, provide a seasonal fishery in the Appomattox. Access is mostly limited to bridge crossings. Numerous fallen trees cross the stream so anglers who don't mind pulling a canoe or johnboat across these trees can enjoy a quiet day on this river. Due to the remote nature of the river, only experienced boaters should try its waters.

Blackwater River (Chowan Drainage)

The Blackwater originates in Prince George County, flows east through Surry County and then south into the Nottoway to form the Chowan. It hosts runs of river herring in spring, along with limited numbers of shad and striped bass. Angling for redbreast sunfish ("redthroats" or "robins") is also quite good in the spring. The river also has largemouth bass, bluegill, crappie, flier and chain pickerel. Bowfin and gar are common in the lower main stem. The water is dark, tannin stained and slightly acidic. A scenic river, it flows through picturesque swamps and is considered excellent for canoeing. Most of this river is not conducive to wading. Ramps are available in the City of Franklin, and at Routes 611 and 603 off Route 258. Canoe access is available at several bridge crossings, but beware of vehicle parking restrictions. Bank fishing opportunities are limited to some bridge crossings, state boat ramps, and canoe access areas. No permits are required.

Chickahominy River

This river, with its beautiful cypress studded shoreline, has supported a nationally known largemouth bass fishery for many years. The river and reservoir typically rank in the top five water bodies in the state for the number of trophy fish, based on the Angler Recognition Program. Chain pickerel, bowfin, yellow perch, channel catfish, long-nose gar, blue catfish and largemouth bass generally comprise most of these award-winning fish. Yellow perch, white perch, and crappie all provide excellent fishing. Although the "Chick" doesn't yield as many large blue catfish as the James, catfish are abundant. Common carp and long-nose gar are large and plentiful. Several anglers who enjoy a good fight have learned to capitalize on these under-utilized species. The spring river herring runs at Walker's Dam continue to draw a number of anglers to the

tidal Chickahominy. Anglers are reminded that all river herring caught above Walker's Dam must be released.

The tidal Chickahominy River can be accessed at the following public landings: Chickahominy Riverfront Park (formerly Powhatan Resort) 757-258-5020; the Chickahominy Wildlife Management Area landing on Morris Creek; and Brickyard Landing west of Toano, off Route 610. Private ramps which provide access to the river for a small fee include: Rock-a-Hock Campground 804-966-2759; Riverside Camp 804-966-5536; Colonial Harbor 804-966-5523; and River's Rest 804-829-2753. Walker's Dam, accessed through Rock-a-Hock Campground, is located off U.S. Route 60 on Route 649, west of Lanexa.

Clinch River

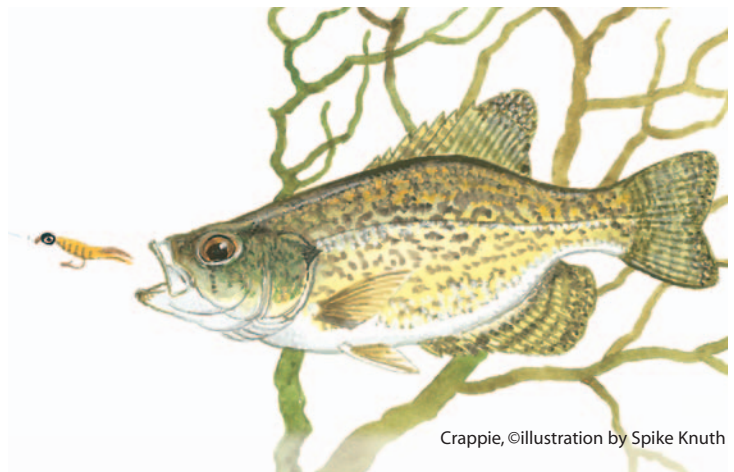
The Clinch River is the crown of the mountain empire. Flowing southwestward from its origin near the town of Tazewell, the Clinch travels some 135 miles, reaching portions of Tazewell, Russell, Wise and Scott counties on its way to the Tennessee state line. In a cast of Virginia rivers that portray history and natural wealth, the Clinch has a story and a character all its own.

The Clinch supports a unique assemblage of aquatic life. The river is home to many rare species of mussels and dozens of species of minnows and darters, many of which sport brilliant colors and play a vital role in the aquatic ecosystem. But, the variety of sport fish is what makes the Clinch a great destination for anglers.

Many game fish species, which have been stocked into other Virginia rivers, are native to the Clinch. Among the native game fish in the river are the smallmouth bass, spotted bass, walleye and sauger. Largemouth bass, rock bass, redbreast sunfish, longear sunfish and bluegill sunfish are available, as well as musky, black crappie and freshwater drum. Anglers who are looking for catfish will find both channel and flathead catfish in good numbers and sizes. Striped bass and white bass are sometimes caught in the lower stretches of the river, where they migrate out of Norris Reservoir in Tennessee. Boaters will also notice longnose gar "sunning" near the river's surface and occasionally taking a gulp of air. Healthy populations of redbreast suckers and carp are available for anglers with the prowess and inclination to pursue them.

Dan River

The Dan River originates high along the eastern slopes of the Blue Ridge Mountains in Patrick County and flows easterly until it empties into 50,000-acre John H. Kerr Reservoir (Buggs Island Lake) near Clarksville, Virginia. The Dan River is a stream for all seasons and the choice of a variety of anglers



Crappie, ©illustration by Spike Knuth

Beginning in the mountainous Patrick County, the Dan River offers a variety of wild trout as well as stocked trout fishing opportunities, with two special regulation areas (check out our annual trout guide). The trout fishing eventually fades as the river passes under Route 103 and flows into North Carolina. The river flows back into Virginia a few miles west of Danville, Virginia as a slow flowing Southside Virginia stream. Fishing is generally limited to catfish, largemouth bass and several kinds of sunfish. The land-locked striped bass fishing the Dan is noted for begins east of the City of Danville. The river flows back into North Carolina for approximately five miles before re-entering Virginia. Thanks to a reciprocal agreement, anglers can fish in North Carolina and Virginia from the Brantley Steam Plant Dam downstream to and throughout John H. Kerr Reservoir. Migratory fish running out of Kerr Reservoir and flathead and blue catfish are the heart of the lower Dan River fishing. Walleye begin moving as early as January, and the white perch and white bass begin to migrate when the dogwoods bloom in early April. The most popular is the striped bass run that begins in late April and continues through May. There is also some winter fishing for walleyes.

James River (Upper)

From the confluence of the Jackson and Cowpasture rivers in Alleghany County, downstream to Richmond, the James River offers a wide range of angling opportunities and settings. Smallmouth bass are the dominant game species, but spotted and largemouth bass can also be caught. Smallmouth bass fishing is good throughout the upper river. Both the mountain sections (upstream from Lynchburg) and the piedmont sections (between Lynchburg

and Richmond) generally provides good fishing. There is not a lot of difference in the fish populations from one spot to another, it is simply a matter of finding the particular locations where the fish are holding and using whatever bait or lure they might want that day.

Other species are also plentiful in the James River, including channel catfish, flathead catfish and various sunfish species (red-breast, bluegill and rock bass). Flathead catfish appear to be more numerous upstream from Lynchburg, and channel catfish are more numerous below Lynchburg. Muskies are also annually stocked in the James. These fish are scarce, but some very large fish can be caught. Most of the muskies are found upstream from Lynchburg.

Overall, the James River offers an excellent fishing opportunity for whatever you might want. Canoeing is the best way to access the river, and a map showing access points is available from the Department. Small boats (such as john boats) can also be used at some access points. Bank and wade fishing access is also available throughout the river. A 14-mile section from near Eagle Rock to Route 630 crossing at Springfield has been designated as a State Scenic River.

James River (Lower)

The tidal James River and its tributaries support a nationally recognized largemouth bass fishery. Upstream from Hopewell, fishing for largemouth is best in old river channels and abandoned gravel pits connected to the main stem. Downstream from Hopewell, largemouth fishing is most productive in larger tributary creeks, the main stem James River having very limited shoreline structure below Hopewell. The creeks between Hopewell and Hog Island provide excellent largemouth habitat, with abundant shoreline structure, such as old pier pilings and downed trees, adjacent to channel drop-offs as well as large expanses of vegetated tidal flats. The tidal James River provides the best fishing for blue catfish in the state, and recently anglers from around the country have begun to travel to Virginia to fish for the abundant large blue catfish found in the tidal James and its tributaries. Hundreds of 30 to 60 pound fish are caught each year in the tidal James system. Excellent black crappie fishing is available for anglers who take the time to locate them; best fishing for crappie occurs in tributary creeks and in oxbows upstream of Hopewell. White perch are caught in good numbers throughout the river. Sunfish are generally small in this tidal river, but pockets of hand-sized bluegill may be located in the backwater areas off the main stem and in tidal creeks. Common carp are abundant from Hog Island upstream to Richmond. In the James carp typically reach 10 pounds, and anglers occasionally take carp up to 30 pounds. Walleye are an extremely rare catch in the James between I-95 in Richmond and Hopewell, as well as in the tidal Appomattox River.

A restoration program for American shad was initiated in 1992, and stocked fish have already returned to the James as spawning adults. Each year since 1999, shad have passed through the newly constructed fish ladder at Boshers' Dam in increasing numbers. These returning adult American shad, along with a healthy run of hickory, have created a very popular fishery within the James River fall line each spring from late March through early May. These are positive signs, but it will take many years to rebuild a viable population of American shad in the James River system.

Anadromous striped bass ("rockfish") fishing has been excellent since the early 1990s. During the spring season stripers are caught



Largemouth bass;
©illustration by Spike Knuth

throughout the tidal James, and striped action can be extremely exciting in the vicinity of the I-95 Bridge in Richmond. (For season information on anadromous striped bass, contact the Virginia Marine Resources Commission (VMRC) in Newport News at 1-800-541-4646.)

Maury River

The Calfpasture and Little Calfpasture rivers come together to form the Maury River just before the Maury enters the famous Goshen Pass and begins a turbulent run downstream, dropping as much as 20 feet in one 100 yard stretch of the river. Once through the Pass the river drops into the valley, continuing toward Lexington at a fast pace. It maintains that rate of flow, except where man intervened, until it enters the James River at Glasgow. The Maury River is fairly short by most standards, flowing only 30 miles to its confluence with the James River. Unlike most Virginia rivers the Maury does not cross any county lines and is contained entirely within Rockbridge County. While nature designed the Maury as a fast flowing stream, several dams have changed its personality: an 8-foot one in Lexington and a 20-foot one near Buena Vista.

The Goshen Pass section of the river is an excellent stocked trout fishing water. While the trout fishing is popular, the bass and sunfish in the river hold more appeal for many anglers. You might catch a smallmouth bass anywhere from the headwaters where the Calfpasture and Little Calfpasture join to form the Maury, to the mouth of the river where it enters the James. Anglers frequently catch smallmouth bass while fishing the Goshen Pass waters for trout, but the best fishing begins downstream where the Pass waters become more gentle. As is true of most fast smallmouth bass streams, the Maury River is loaded with scrappy and tasty redbreast sunfish. Many anglers release their bass and string a good catch of sunfish for the table. In addition to the bass and sunnies the Maury holds populations of rock bass, another stream mate of smallmouth bass in the western part of the state. Other angling possibilities include the likes of carp, catfish and suckers.

New River

When you plan a trip on the New River in southwest Virginia, you will be floating into the past. The New River is an ancient river system, the oldest on the North American continent and second only to the Nile River in Africa as the oldest river in the world. It begins as two streams in the Blue Ridge Mountains of North Carolina, before merging into the New River four miles from the Virginia line. And therein lies another quirk of this ancient river – it flows northward rather than southward like most of the other major rivers along the eastern seaboard. It meanders some 160 miles through the counties of Grayson, Carroll, Pulaski, Montgomery and Giles in Virginia before it turns into Bluestone Lake in West Virginia. Below Bluestone it continues northwest and joins the Gauley River to form the Kanawha River at the Gauley Bridge.

Throughout its journey in Virginia, the New River flows through spectacular, untamed mountain scenery complete with craggy rock cliffs and magnificent gorges. Thus, the New River provides plenty of excitement for whitewater enthusiasts, with several major Class II – III rapids. There is also an abundance of flatwater to please motorboaters and canoeists. The Department has numerous boat ramps along the river, including recently completed facilities at Byllesby Reservoir, Austinville, and Pembroke. A free float guide

authored by Department of Game and Inland Fisheries biologists is available from some of our offices statewide.

Fishing is not to be missed in the New River. Simply stated, the New rivals the James and Rappahannock rivers as one of the best fishing rivers in Virginia. It supports outstanding populations of just about every major freshwater game fish in the state: smallmouth bass, spotted bass, largemouth bass, rock bass, striped bass, white bass, hybrid striped bass, muskellunge, walleye, black crappie, channel catfish, flathead catfish, yellow perch, redbreast sunfish and bluegill. State records that have been caught in the New River include muskellunge (45 lbs.), smallmouth bass (8 lbs. 1 oz.), and walleye (15 lbs. 15oz.). The state record spotted bass came out of Claytor Lake in 1993 at 3 lbs. 10 oz. Best of all, the river has the potential to yield many more record-setting catches in the future.

North Fork Shenandoah River

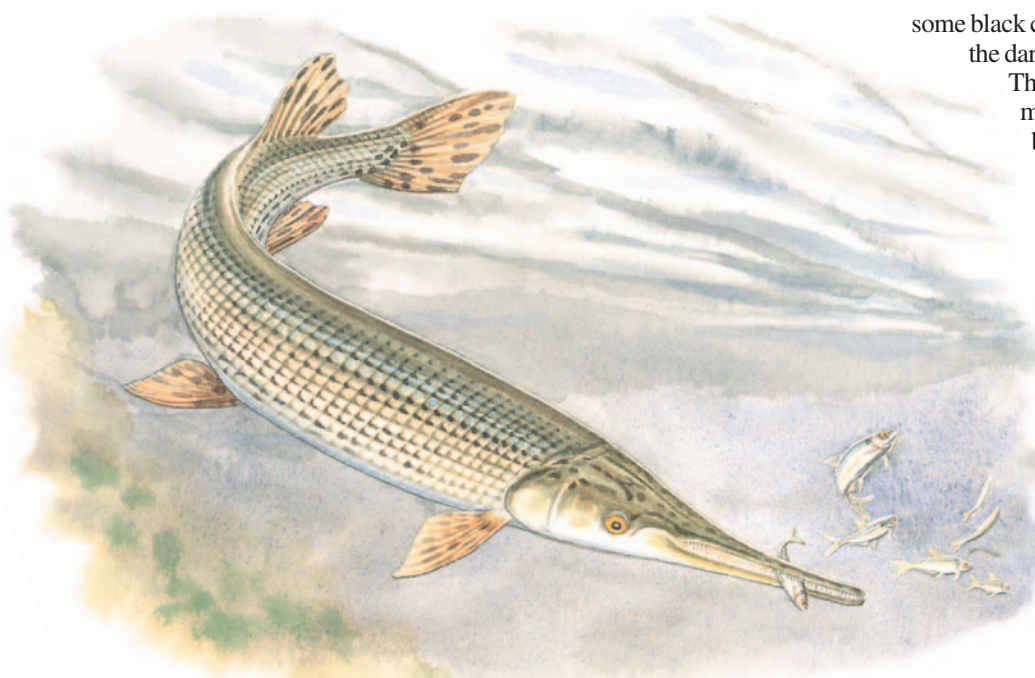
The North Fork Shenandoah River flows north 116 miles from northern Rockingham County to the Town of Front Royal where it joins the South Fork Shenandoah to form the Shenandoah River. The North Fork is a relatively small, shallow river; is an ideal river to float by canoe; and can easily be waded.

The most sought after sportfish in the North Fork Shenandoah River is the smallmouth bass. Unfortunately a widespread “chronic” fish kill claimed 70-80% of the adult smallmouth bass throughout the entire river in 2004. This fish kill also decimated the redbreast sunfish population. Other species were mildly affected by the fish kill. Officials were never able to determine the exact cause of the fish kill. Recovery of the fish population will depend upon the absence of future fish kills, and consistent spawning success. Because smallmouth bass grow extremely slow and live to old age in the North Fork, it may take 5-10 years before the fishery fully recovers. An identical fish kill plagued the South Fork and Mainstem Shenandoah River in 2005. Scientists and concerned citizens are still actively investigating the cause of these fish kills in the Shenandoah River Watershed. For updated information about the Shenandoah River fish kill investigations visit: www.purewaterforum.org.

Anglers can expect to catch reduced numbers of smallmouth bass and redbreast sunfish following this fish kill. Largemouth bass are limited to few areas of the North Fork where deep pools with slower currents exist. The North Fork is home to several sunfish species: redbreast sunfish, rock bass, bluegill, and pumpkinseed sunfish. The fallfish feels right at home in the mid-depth currents of the North Fork. This “overlooked” sportfish is very abundant and can reach lengths of up to 18 inches. The Department annually stocks fingerling-size musky at several sites on the North Fork downstream of Mount Jackson. American eel, white sucker, common carp, crappie, yellow bullhead and channel catfish are some other fish species that anglers might encounter in the North Fork.

North Landing and Northwest Rivers

With the Chesapeake Bay and the Atlantic Ocean so close by and so prominent on maps of the Tidewater area of Virginia, it’s understandable that many people might overlook the North Landing and Northwest Rivers when planning a fishing or boating excursion.



Longnose gar; ©illustration by Michael Simon

some black crappie and chain pickerel, which prefer the darker, acidic water more prevalent here. The river is popular with bass anglers but may be best known for its nice size bluegill.

Nottoway River

The Nottoway River is located in south central and southeastern Virginia. The river's length is approximately 130 miles. It begins in Prince Edward and Lunenburg counties and flows southeasterly, forming a boundary for Nottoway-Lunenburg, Brunswick-Dinwiddie, and Greenville-Sussex counties, then meanders across Sussex and Southampton counties to its confluence with the Blackwater River at the North Carolina line, forming the Chowan River.

Above the Route 630 bridge on the Greenville-Sussex County line, the river is generally shallow, clear and fast flowing. There are numerous small rapids that prevent the use of outboard motors and large boats, but canoeists will find some nice float trips. Below Route 630, the river slows, deepens, and darkens as numerous swamps in the Coastal Plain join it. This part of the river, particularly in Southampton County, is large enough for bass boats during normal flows.

For anglers, the river's fishery could also be divided at the Route 630 bridge. The upper river has numerous redbreast sunfish, smallmouth bass and Roanoke bass. Below the bridge, bluegill, largemouth bass, black crappie and channel catfish are more common. In the spring, anglers can catch blueback herring, American shad, striped bass and white perch migrating upstream from North Carolina.

Rappahannock and Rapidan Rivers

Above Fredericksburg and the tidal influence, the Rappahannock and Rapidan rivers provide excellent smallmouth bass and redbreast sunfish angling. Herring and shad run the river each spring in the tidal waters below Fredericksburg. Below the fall line, the Rappahannock also hosts white perch, largemouth bass, striped bass, crappies, yellow perch, channel catfish and blue catfish.

The Rappahannock River flows from its origin at Chester Gap in Fauquier County approximately 184 miles to the Chesapeake Bay. The first 62 miles, from the headwaters to Mayfield Bridge (Fredericksburg), are designated State Scenic River. Access to the Rappahannock system (defined here as the Rapidan and Rappahannock Rivers) is fairly limited and primitive. Established access points on the Rappahannock (traveling downstream) are at Kelly's Ford (Route 672 off Route 651) in Culpeper County and Motts Landing (Route 618) in Spotsylvania County. About 25 miles separates these canoe/john boat slides, and an overnight camp stop is nearly mandatory for those that float fish this reach. Another access point is located on the Rapidan River at Elys Ford (Route 610) in Spotsylvania County about 14 miles upstream of Motts Landing. Access may also be gained via several "non established" points—these

The North Landing and Northwest Rivers may be close in proximity and eventually join in North Carolina, but there are plenty of differences between the two. North Landing, (the larger of the two), contains part of the Intracoastal Waterway, so there's a deep channel for large boats. You can follow the Waterway north to the Elizabeth River, and ultimately, the Chesapeake Bay. Heading south takes you into Currituck South in North Carolina. The river has extensive marshes around it with several small tributary streams, particularly along the western shore.

The Northwest River, draining eastward from the Great Dismal Swamp, is very dark in color and acidic (commonly referred to as blackwater). Instead of marshes, the shoreline is lined with cypress trees and deep, dark swamps. As with the North Landing River, there are plenty of small tributaries to explore that keep you out of the way of the bigger boats on the main river

Anglers will find a wide variety of fish in these waters, both freshwater and brackish. Common fish in the North Landing River include largemouth bass, bluegill, pumpkinseed, yellow perch, white perch and white catfish. White catfish and white perch are more abundant in the main river, whereas the sunfish are more common in the tributaries. On the western shore, the Pocaty River is a good tributary stream for largemouth bass, bluegill and pumpkinseed. On the east side, West Neck Creek is also a good spot for these species. Both of these streams produce some big bass. Anglers on the North Landing River are also enjoying the resurgence of the striped bass population along the Atlantic Coast. While trophy stripers are rare, smaller stripers (up to 10 pounds) have become fairly common in recent years at certain locations and time of the year.

The Northwest River has fewer brackish water species than the North Landing River. White perch and white catfish are not as common. Bluegill and pumpkinseed sunfish are abundant and different from in the North Landing River, Redear sunfish (shellcrackers) are found here in fairly good numbers. The Northwest River also has

consisting of VDOT right-of-ways along bridges. The river is tidal below Fredericksburg, and public boat launch sites are limited to four (two near Fredericksburg, Hicks Landing (Port Royal) and Tappahannock).

The Rappahannock River's character changes abruptly in Fredericksburg at the fall line (the limit of tidal influence). Above the fall line, the river is usually clear, swift, and dominant substrates are bedrock, boulder and cobble—perfect habitat for smallmouth bass and related species. However, below Route 1 the river is tidal, and the substrate is finer—dominated by sand, and the water is frequently murky. Species composition shifts with habitat, and large-mouth bass, catfish and anadromous species are common in and below Fredericksburg.

Shenandoah River (Mainstem)

The Mainstem Shenandoah River is formed when the North Fork and South Fork converge at Front Royal, Virginia. The Shenandoah flows for 57 miles until it empties into the Potomac River at Harpers Ferry, West Virginia.

Serious smallmouth anglers know the Shenandoah River is one of the top smallmouth bass rivers in the eastern United States. Unfortunately, a massive fish kill claimed roughly 80% of the adult smallmouth bass throughout the South Fork and Virginia portion of the Mainstem Shenandoah in 2005. This fish kill also decimated the redbreast sunfish population. Other species were mildly affected by the fish kill. Officials were never able to determine the exact cause of the fish kill. Recovery of the fish population will depend upon the absence of future fish kills, and consistent spawning success. Because smallmouth bass grow extremely slow and live to old age in the Shenandoah, it may take 5-10 years before the fishery fully recovers. An identical fish kill plagued the North Fork Shenandoah River in 2004. Scientists and concerned citizens are still actively investigating the cause of these fish kills in the Shenandoah River Watershed. For updated information about the Shenandoah River fish kill investigations visit: www.purewaterforum.org. An excellent spawn in 2004 should mean modest numbers of 9-10 inch smallmouth bass will be available to anglers the next couple of years. Largemouth bass do not gain as much attention as their cousin the smallmouth, but the Shenandoah harbors a quality largemouth fishery. In some sections of the river largemouth bass may outnumber smallmouth. Anglers should seek-out the slower, deeper pool habitat when searching for largemouth bass. The Department annually stocks fingerling musky at several locations in the Mainstem Shenandoah. Channel catfish are plentiful throughout the entire Shenandoah River, with a healthy population dominated by quality-size (2-4 lb) cats. Some cats up to 10 lbs are also available to anglers. American eel, white sucker, margined madtom, northern hogsucker, common carp, yellow bullhead, and redhorse suckers are additional fish species found in the Mainstem Shenandoah River that anglers may encounter.

South Fork Shenandoah River

The South Fork Shenandoah River begins at the confluence of the North River and South River near Port Republic and flows north 97 miles to meet the North Fork Shenandoah at the Town of Front Royal. The South Fork is a very popular destination for canoeists. The close proximity of the river to urban areas of Virginia and the aesthetic beauty of the valley attracts thousands of river users each year. Twenty public access points along the entire length of the river

creates the opportunity to plan many different float trips of varying length.

The South Fork Shenandoah River has a long-standing reputation as an excellent smallmouth bass river. Unfortunately, a massive fish kill claimed roughly 80% of the adult smallmouth bass throughout the entire river in 2005. This fish kill also decimated the redbreast sunfish population. Other species were mildly affected by the fish kill. Officials were never able to determine the exact cause of the fish kill. Recovery of the fish population will depend upon the absence of future fish kills, and consistent spawning success. Because smallmouth bass grow extremely slow and live to old age in the South Fork, it may take 5-10 years before the fishery fully recovers. An identical fish kill plagued the North Fork Shenandoah River in 2004. Scientists and concerned citizens are still actively investigating the cause of these fish kills in the Shenandoah River Watershed. For updated information about the Shenandoah River fish kill investigations visit: www.purewaterforum.org. A excellent spawn in 2004 should mean modest numbers of 9-10 inch smallmouth bass will be available to anglers the next couple of years. Largemouth bass do not gain as much attention as their cousin the smallmouth, but the South Fork Shenandoah harbors a quality largemouth fishery. Anglers should seek-out the slower, deeper pool habitat when searching for largemouth bass. The Department annually stocks fingerling musky at over 10 sites on the South Fork as far upstream as Island Ford in Rockingham County. Channel catfish are plentiful throughout the entire South Fork Shenandoah, with a healthy population dominated by quality-size (2-3 lb) cats. American eel, white sucker, margined madtom, northern hogsucker, common carp, fallfish, yellow bullhead, are additional fish species commonly found in the South Fork Shenandoah River.

Staunton (Roanoke) River

The Staunton River is located in south-central Virginia and forms the boundaries of Campbell, Pittsylvania, Halifax and Charlotte counties. Actually an 81-mile segment of the Roanoke River, the Staunton River begins at Leesville Dam and continues to the confluence with John H. Kerr Reservoir. The section of river from Long Island to Rt. 360 is designated as a State Scenic River. Bird watchers, anglers, and hunters will enjoy the bounty of the river and its adjacent bottomlands. Canoeists can experience the challenging Fish Trap (Class III) and Cat Rock (Class II) rapids. In addition, an abundance of flat water is available for those individuals seeking a more relaxing trip down the river. A developed public bank fishing area is found just below Leesville Dam and large sections of the Staunton River also are accessible to motorboats, with access points at Altavista, Brookneal, Long Island, Watkins Bridge, US 360 E and Staunton River State Park.

The bottomlands bordering the river are largely undeveloped and are under ownership of individuals, paper companies, or municipalities. River users should control litter and seek landowner permission prior to camping or picnicking on the river banks. Common courtesy is requested of river users.

Fishing opportunities include seasonal runs of walleye, striped bass, white bass, and suckers. Catfish, including larger flathead catfish, can be caught throughout the river. Smallmouth bass and Roanoke bass (a larger cousin of the rock bass) are common in the upper sections, particularly around riffles and other rocky habitat. Largemouth and crappie are attractive angling prospects in the lower river, toward the state park.

Public Lakes Guide

Region 1 – Eastern Virginia

Lake, Size & Location	Permit Req.	Boat Ramp	Picnic Facil.	Gas Motor	Boat Rental	Handi. Facil.	Conces. Facil.	LMB BG	CF	CRP	SB	CP	YP
Beaverdam Swamp Reservoir (635 ac) Rt. 17 to Rt. 616.	Fee	•	•		•	•	•	•	•	•			
Chandler's Millpond (75 ac) on Rt. 3 just south of Westmoreland State Park.		•						•	•	•			
Chickahominy Reservoir (1,230 ac) I-64 east to Providence Forge (Rt. 60 E) off Rt. 649.	Fee	•		•	•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Diascund Reservoir (1,110 ac) I-64 east to Providence Forge (Rt. 60 E) off Rt. 603.		•						•	•	•		•	•
Gardy's Mill Pond (75 ac) Rt. 202 west of Callao.		•						•	•	•		•	
Harwood's Mill Reservoir (265 ac) Rt. 17 - Rt. 173.	Fee	•	•		WD		WD	•	•	•			•
Harrison Lake (82 ac) Rt. 5 to Rt. 658. (Harrison Lake National Fish Hatchery)		•	•	5 HP		•		•		•		•	
Lake Maury (165 ac) Intersection of Rt. 60 and Rt. 17.	•		•		•	•	•	•	•	•			•
Lee Hall Reservoir (230 ac) Rt. 143 Newport News. (757) 886-7912.	Fee	•	•		WD		WD	•	•	•		•	•
Little Creek Reservoir (947 ac) Rt. 60 E to Rt. 603 to Rt. 610 E off Lakeview Drive.	Fee	•	•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Sandy Bottom Park Pond (12 ac) Intersection of I-64 and Big Bethel Road.			•		•	•	•	•		•			
Waller Mill Reservoir (360 ac) Rt. 143 to Rt. 645.	Fee	•	•		•		•	•	•	•	•		•
Woodstock Pond (7.5 ac) York River State Park east of Croaker Rt. 606.			•		•		•	•		•			

Key

Fee - Permit available at reservoir
 WD - Weekends only
 LMB/BG - Largemouth Bass/Bluegill
 CF - Catfish
 CRP - Crappie
 SB - Striped Bass
 CP - Chain Pickerel
 YP - Yellow Perch

For more information contact:
 VDGIF
 P.O. Box 276
 Barhamsville, VA 23011
 (804) 843-5962

Region 1 – Southeastern Virginia

Lake, Size & Location	Permit Req.	Boat Ramp	Picnic Facil.	Gas Motor	Boat Rental	Handi. Facil.	Conces. Facil.	LMB BG	CF	CRP	SB	MY	CP	WE	YP	WP
Airfield (105 ac) Located 5 miles south of Wakefield on Rt.628.		DR						•		•			•		•	
Back Bay (25,473 ac) Rt.615.State ramps at Mill Landing Rd.and Back Bay Landing Rd.		•		•	•Priv		•Priv	•	•	•			•		•	•
Burnt Mills (610 ac) Located in Suffolk off Rt 10 on Rt.603. No fishing from shore.	Fee	DR		12 HP				•		•			•		•	
Cohoon (510 ac) off Rt.58 on Pitchkettle Road (Rt.604) in Suffolk.	Fee	•		10 HP	•		•	•		•			•		•	
Drummond (3,000 ac) Access by feeder ditch off Rt.17.					10 HP					•			•		•	
Emporia (210 ac) West of I-95 on Rt.611.		•		10 HP				•	•	•						
Kilby (226 ac) Located on Business Rt.58 in Suffolk. No shore fishing.	Fee	CL		10 HP				•		•			•			
Lone Star (490 ac) Fishing station located off Rt. 10 on Rt. 125 in Suffolk.	Fee	•	•					•		•	•					•
Meade (512 ac) Fishing station (bait sales). Located off Rt.58 on Pitchkettle Rd. (Rt.604) in Suffolk.	Fee	•		10 HP	•		•	•	•	•	•		•		•	•
Prince (777 ac) Off Rt.460 on Lake Prince Rd.(Rt.604) in Suffolk.	Fee	•	•	12 HP	•		•	•	•	•	•		•		•	
Smith (222 ac) Fishing station located on Rt. 13 (Northampton Blvd) in Va.Beach.	Fee	•	•	12 HP	•		•	•	•	•				•	•	•
Speights Run (197 ac) Located on Rt.646 off Rt.58 in Suffolk. No shore fishing.	Fee	•		10 HP				•		•			•			
Trashmore (52 ac) Located off Va.Beach Exp.in Va.Beach. No private boats.			•					•	•	•	•			•		•
Western Branch (1,579 ac) 2 boat ramps located off Rt.603 and Rt.506 in Suffolk. Concession located on Rt.605.	Fee	•		12 HP	•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•		•	•
Whitehurst (458 ac) Located off Shore Drive (Rt.60) in Va.Beach.Shore fishing.	Fee	•		12 HP		•		•	•	•			•	•	•	•

Key

Fee - Permit available at location

DR - Dirt ramp

CL - Ramp closed - Another to be built in another location

LMB/BG - Largemouth Bass/Bluegill

CF - Catfish

CRP - Crappie

SB - Striped Bass

MY - Muskellunge

CP - Chain Pickerel

WE - Walleye

YP - Yellow Perch

WP - White Perch

For more information contact:

VDGIF

3909 Airline Boulevard

Chesapeake, VA 23321

(757) 465-6812

Region 2 – Southside Virginia

Lake, Size & Location	Permit Req.	Boat Ramp	Picnic Facil.	Gas Motor	Boat Rental	Handi. Facil.	Conces. Facil.	LMB BG	CF	CRP	SB	CP	WE	WB
Amelia (100 ac) from Rt. 360 take Rt. 604 N to Rt. 616 to Rt. 652.		●				●		●	●	●				
Bannister (400 ac) Rt. 501 just north of Halifax.		●		●				●	●	●		●		
Briery Creek (845 ac) Rt. 15, 7 miles south of Farmville.		●		10HP max		●		●		●		●		
Brunswick (150 ac) on Rt. 638 off Rt. 58 east of Edgerton.		●						●	●	●		●		
Conner (110 ac) from Rt. 360 take Rt. 746 to Rt. 603 to Rt. 619 to Rt. 623 E to Rt. 624 S, 2 miles from Providence.		●						●	●	●		●		
Cumberland State Forest Lakes Arrowhead (6 ac) Rt. 60 W, Rt. 622 to Rt. 629. Bear Creek (42 ac) Rt. 60 W to Rt. 622 to Rt. 629. Bonbrook (6 ac) Rt. 60 W to Rt. 622-623-626 to C.S.F. Oak Hill (6 ac) Rt. 60 W to Rt. 622 to Rt. 629. Winston (12 ac) Rt. 60 W to Rt. 622 to Rt. 629.		●	●		●	●	●	●	●	●				
Fort Pickett Lakes off Rt. 40 east of Blackstone. Birchin (45 ac) limited access. Butterwood Pond (8 ac) Dearing Pond (7 ac) Engineers Pond (19 ac) Lewis Pond (12 ac) Pickett Reservoir (384 ac) Reservation Pond (3 ac) Tommehton (51 ac) limited access	● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ●	● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ●		Max 35 HP 35 HP 35 HP 35 HP 35 HP 35 HP 35 HP 35 HP				● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ●	● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ●	● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ●		● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ●		
Gaston (20,300 ac) Mecklenburg and Brunswick counties, various routes.		●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Goodwin (13 ac) Twin Lake State Park, from Rt. 360 take Rt. 621 to park.		●	●		●		●	●	●	●				
Gordon (157 ac) off Rt. 58 on Rt. 664 south of South Hill.		●		10 HP Max				●	●	●		●		
Great Creek (212 ac) 1 mile north of Lawrenceville off Rt. 46.		●	●					●	●	●		●		
Holliday (113 ac) Appomattox-Buckingham State Forest. From Rt. 460 take Rt. 24 N to Rt. 626 to Rt. 640 to Rt. 692.		●	●		●	●	●	●	●	●		●		
Horsepen (19 ac) Rt. 60 to Rt. 638 to WMA.		●	●					●	●	●		●		
James River Ponds Rt. 607, 7 miles north of Rt. 60 at Bent Creek. Branch (7 ac) Taylor (1 ac) Green Hill (1 ac)			● ● ●			●		● ● ● ●	● ● ● ●	● ● ● ●				
Kerr Reservoir (48,900 ac) Halifax and Mecklenburg counties, various routes.		●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		●
Modest Creek (29 ac) from Victoria - Rt. 49 N to Rt. 723 to Rt. 739.		●						●	●			●		
Nottoway (188 ac) 6 miles north of Blackstone on Rt. 606.		●		10 HP Max				●	●	●		●		
Nottoway Falls (60 ac) from Victoria - Rt. 49 N to lake.		●						●	●	●		●		
Prince Edward (27 ac) Twin Lake State Park, from Rt. 360 take Rt. 621 to park.		●	●					●	●	●		●		
Sandy River Reservoir (740 ac) Rts. 460-640, 1 mile to access road		●		10 HP Max		●		●	●	●		●		
Slate River Watershed (38 ac) in Appomattox - Buckingham State Forest, Rt. 640 1 mile north of Rt. 636.		●						●	●	●		●		
Wilck's (27 ac) Rt. 460 Bus. west in Farmville.		●	●					●	●	●				

Region 2 – Staunton River District

Lake, Size & Location	Permit Req.	Boat Ramp	Picnic Facil.	Gas Motor	Boat Rental	Handi. Facil.	Conces. Facil.	LMB BG	CF	CRP	MY	WE	SMB	WB	SB
Abbott (24 ac) off Rt. 43 at Peaks of Otter on Blue Ridge Parkway	BANK FISHING ONLY							BG					•		
Burton (76 ac) 6 miles north of Callands via Rt. 969 and Rt. 800.		•						•	•	•					
Fairy Stone (168 ac) Rt. 623 off of Rt. 57 west of Bassett.		•	•		•	•	•	•		•					
Leesville Reservoir (3,400 ac) Campbell, Bedford and Pittsylvania counties, various routes.		•	•	•			•	•	•	•		•		•	•
Martinsville Reservoir (175 ac) Rt. 220 Bus. south, Rt. 174 North, left on Rt. 108.	Fee	•	•		•			•	•	•					
Mill Creek (189 ac) Rt. 60 to Rt. 778, right on 610 - 619.		•	•					•	•	•					
Nelson (40 ac) Rt. 655 E of Arrington, left on 812.		•						•	•	•					
Otter Lake (8 ac) off Blue Ridge Parkway north of Big Island.	BANK FISHING ONLY DRAINED FOR DAM REPAIRS - WINTER 2004/2005							•							
Philpott Reservoir (2,800 ac) Franklin, Henry and Patrick counties, various routes.		•	•	•				•	•	•		•	•		
Smith Mountain (20,000 ac) Bedford, Franklin and Pittsylvania counties, various routes.		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•		•
Stonehouse (34 ac) Rt. 610 - 625 - 830.		•	•					•		•					
Thrasher (34 ac) Rt. 60 - 610 - 617.		•	•					•		•					
White Oak Mtn. Ponds (4) (1/2 to 7 ac) off Rt. 707 out of Spring Garden.								•							

Key

Fee - Boat only, permit available at reservoir
 LMB/BG - Largemouth Bass/Bluegill
 CF - Catfish
 CRP - Crappie
 MY - Muskellunge
 WE - Walleye
 SMB - Smallmouth Bass
 WB - White Bass
 SB - Striped Bass

For more information contact:
 VDGIF
 910 Thomas Jefferson Road
 Forest, VA 24551
 (434) 525-7522

Key

LMB/BG - Largemouth Bass/Bluegill
 CF - Catfish
 CRP - Crappie
 SB - Striped Bass
 CP - Chain Pickerel
 WE - Walleye
 WB - White Bass

For more information contact:
 VDGIF
 910 Thomas Jefferson Road
 Forest, VA 24551
 (434) 525-7522



Region 3 – Southwest Virginia

Lake, Size & Location	Permit Req.	Boat Ramp	Picnic Facil.	Gas Motor	Boat Rental	Handi. Facil.	Conces. Facil.	LMB BG	SMB	CF	WB	TR	MY	WE	HSB
Bark Camp (48 ac) Alt. 58 to Tacoma, Rt. 706 to Rt. 699 to Rt. 822 to U.S.F.S. Rt. 993 to lake.	NF	•	•			•		•		•		•			
Beartree (14 ac) I-81 to Marion (Exit 45) and Rt. 16 S to Troutdale, west on Rt. 603 to Rt. 58 W to lake.	NF		•			•						•			
John Flannagan (1,143 ac) Alt. 58 to Rt. 63 N to Clincho Rt. 63 to Rt. 616 to Rt. 614 to lake.		•	•	•	•			•,KB	•	•				•	•
Hales (4 ac) I-81 to Marion (Exit 45) Rt. 16 S to Sugar Grove and Rt. 614 to Rt. 612 to Rt. 798 to lake.	NF											•			
Hidden Valley (61 ac) Abingdon northwest on Alt. 58 to Rt. 690 to lake.		•						•,RBr	•	•					
Hungry Mother (108 ac) Hungry Mother State Park. I-81 to Marion (Exit 47) to Rt. 16 N to state park and lake.		•	•		•	•		• KB,RBr	•	•			•	•	
Keokee (92 ac) Rt. 23 to Rt. 68 W at Appalachia to Rt. 606 to Rt. 623 to U.S.F.S. road to lake.	NF	•						•		•					
Laurel (Breaks Interstate Park) Rt. 460 at Vansant to Rt. 83 W to Rt. 80 N to park.								•							
Laurel Bed (300 ac) I-81 to Chilhowie, Rt. 107 NW to Saltville. Signs lead to Clinch Mtn. WMA and lake.		•							•			•			
Lincolnshire (20 ac) Rt. 460 at Tazewell.		•	•					•		•		•			
North Fork Pound (154 ac) Rt. 23 to Pound and lake.		•	•	•	•			•,KB	•	•			•		
South Holston (7,580 ac) I-81 to Abingdon (Exit 17) Rt. 75 S to Rt. 670 and lake.		•	•	•	•			•,RBr	•	•	•	•	•	•	
Witten (52 ac) Rt. 460 to Tazewell and Rt. 16 N to Rt. 643 to lake.		•	•					•,RBr	•			•			

Key

NF - National Forest
 LMB/BG - Largemouth Bass/Bluegill
 KB - Kentucky
 RBr - Redbreast Sunfish
 SMB - Smallmouth Bass
 CF - Catfish
 WB - White Bass
 TR - Trout
 MY - Muskellunge
 WE - Walleye
 HSB - Hybrid Striped Bass

For more information contact:
 VDGIF
 1796 Highway Sixteen
 Marion, VA 24354
 (276) 783-4860

Region 3 – New River Valley

Lake, Size & Location	Permit Req.	Boat Ramp	Picnic Facil.	Gas Motor	Boat Rental	Handi. Facil.	Conces. Facil.	LMB BG	CF	CRP	MY	SMB	WB	SB	HSB
Claytor (4,472 ac) Various routes.		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Gatewood (162 ac) Rt. 710 (Mt. Olivet Rd.), west of Pulaski off Rt. 99 N.		•	•		•		•	•	•	•		•			
Rural Retreat (90 ac) I-81 to Rural Retreat (Exit 60) to Rt. 90 S. Signs to lake.		•	•		•		•	•	•	•	•				
Lovill's Creek (45 ac) Rt. 52 to Cana, Rt. 686 to lake.		•	•				•	•	•	•					

Key

LMB/BG - Largemouth Bass/Bluegill
 CF - Catfish
 CRP - Crappie
 MY - Muskellunge
 SMB - Smallmouth Bass
 WB - White Bass
 SB - Striped Bass
 HSB - Hybrid Striped Bass

For more information contact:
 VDgif
 2206 South Main St., Suite C
 Blacksburg, VA 24060
 (540) 961-8304



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Region 4 – West Central Virginia

Lake, Size & Location	Permit Req.	Boat Ramp	Picnic Facil.	Gas Motor	Boat Rental	Handi. Facil.	Conces. Facil.	LMB BG	CF	CRP	TR	CP	WE
Clifton Forge Reservoir (9 ac) I-64 W of Clifton Forge, Exit 24, go toward town, Rt. 606 N to top of mountain.	NF							•	•		•		
Coles Run Reservoir (7 ac) Exit 96 off I-64 at Waynesboro, Rt. 624 S, Rt. 664 S to Forest Rd 42, take right, go 4.5 miles.	NF										•		
Douthat (52 ac) I-64 W of Lexington (Exit 27).	Fee	•	•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	
Forest Service Lakes Braley Pond (5 ac) 10 miles west of Churchville on Rt. 250, 0.5 north on Rt. 715.	NF		•					•	•		•		
Elkhorn (50 ac) 10 miles west of Churchville on Rt. 250, 6.5 miles north on Rt. 715, east on Forest Road 95.	NF	•	•			•		•	•		•		
Hearthstone (14 ac) 5 miles north of Churchville on Rt. 42, 0.4 mi. north on Rt. 760, 3 miles west on Rt. 730, 2 miles north Forest Service Road 101.	NF	•						•	•	•	•		
Sherando (20 & 8 ac) Exit 96 off I-64 at Waynesboro Rt. 624 S (3 mi.) and Rt. 664 S (7 mi.).	NF	•	•,SW		Canoe	•	•	•	•		•		
Lexington (22 ac) Rt. 11 south to 251 - 612 - 667.	•										•		
Mills Creek Reservoir (17 ac) Exit 96 off I-64 at Waynesboro, Rt. 624 S, Rt. 664 S to Forest Rd. 42, take right, go 1.5 miles.	NF										•		
Moomaw (2,530 ac) Callaghan Exit off I-64, 2 miles east on Rt. 661, 10 miles north on Rt. 620.	PK	•	•	•	•	•	•	• SMB	•	•	•	•	
Tams City Park (3 ac) City of Staunton.								•	•		•		
Virginia Power Rec. Ponds (40 & 32 ac) Rt. 39 west of Warm Springs to Hiners Store, Rt. 600 N (6 mi.).		•	•			•		•	•	•			
Willis Robertson (26 ac) Rt. 11 bypass to S. Lexington, Rt. 251 follow signs to lake.		•	•		•	•	•	•	•				•

Key

Fee - Permit available at location

NF - National Forest

SW - Swimming

PK - Parking

LMB/BG - Largemouth

Bass/Bluegill

CF - Catfish

CRP - Crappie

TR - Trout

CP - Chain Pickerel

WE - Walleye

SMB - Smallmouth Bass

For more information contact:

VDGIF

P.O. Box 996

Verona, VA 24482

(540) 248-9360

Region 4 – Northwest Virginia

Lake, Size & Location	Permit Req.	Boat Ramp	Picnic Facil.	Handi. Facil.	Conces. Facil.	LMB BG	CF	CRP	TR	MY	NP	WE
Arrowhead (34 ac) southeast of Luray on Rt.669.	●	●	●			●	●	●			●	●
Clearbrook (3 ac) Clearbrook Park (Town of Clearbrook Rt.81 - 11 - 672).			●		●				●			
Forest Service Lakes												
Bealler's Ferry Pond (7 ac) Hwy.211 to Luray. North on Rt.675, east on Rt.684.	NF			●		●	●					
Briery (9 ac) Rt.257 W of Dayton - Rt.924.	NF					●	●		●			
Dry Run (10 ac) Rt.33W of Rawley Springs.	NF							●				
Hone Quarry (6 ac) Rt.257W of Dayton - Rt.924.	NF					●	●	●	●			
Skidmore (118 ac) Rt.33 W of Harrisonburg - PS 227.	NF					●	●	●	●			
Slate Lick (10 ac) Rt.33 - Rt.612N - Rt.230 - PS 1279.	NF					●	●		●			
Tomahawk (2 ac) Rt.263 and 610 W of Mt.Jackson.	NF			●		●	●		●			
Laura (44 ac) Bryce Mtn.Resort at Bayse. Rt.263, 12 miles west of Mt.Jackson.		●				●	●	●			●	●
Silver (10 ac) From Harrisonburg take Rt.42 south to Dayton, then right on Rt.701.									●			
Virginia Dept.of Game & Inland Fisheries Lakes												
Frederick (117 ac) Rt.522 and 340, 5 miles north of Front Royal.		●		●	●	●	●	●			●	●
Shenandoah (36 ac) Rt.276 S of Rt.33.		●				●	●	●		●		
Wilkins (3 ac) Jim Barnett Park (Winchester).			●	●		●	●	●	●			

Key

NF - National Forest Stamp
 LMB/BG - Largemouth Bass/Bluegill
 CF - Catfish
 CRP - Crappie
 TR - Trout
 MY - Muskellunge
 NP - Northern Pike
 WE - Walleye

For more information contact:

VDGIF
 P.O. Box 996
 Verona, VA 24482
 (540) 248-9360

Region 5 – Northern Virginia

Lake, Size & Location	Permit Req.	Boat Ramp	Picnic Facil.	Gas Motor	Boat Rental	Handi. Facil.	Conces. Facil.	LMB BG	SMB	CF	CRP	SB	TR	NP MY	WE
Abel (185 ac) Rt. 17 N - Rt. 616 N - Rt. 651 E.		•						•		•	•				
Accotink (90 ac) FCPA, I-95 N - 644 W - right on Backlick, left on Highland, right on Accotink.			•		•	•	•	•		•					
Anna (9,600 ac) Rt. 1 south, west on Rt. 208 to lake.		•	•	•	•	•	•	•		•	•	•			•
Beaverdam Cr. (350 ac) 15 N - 50 W - 659 N.								•	•	•	•				
Brittle (77 ac) 29 N - 600 E - 793 S.		•	•		•	FP	•	•		•	•				•
Burke (218 ac) in Burke Park. 95 N - 123 N.		•	•		•	FP	•	•		•	•			MY	•
Cook (4 ac) Cameron Run Reg. Pk. (Alexandria).										•			•		
Curtis (91 ac) 17 N - 616 N - 662 W, surrounded by park.		•	•		•	FP		•		•	•				
Fairfax Lake (28 ac) 7 W - 606 W - FCPA surrounded by park.			•		•			•		•	•				
Germantown Lake (109 ac) Rt. 17 to 28 N, 643 (Meetze Road) to C.M. Crockett Park.	•	•	•		•	FP	•	•		•	•				
Huntsman (27 ac) 123 N - 636 N - 641 N.								•		•	•				
Lake Anna State Park Pond (1 ac) Rt. 1 to Fredericksburg west on 208, north on 601 to Lake Anna State Park. (Kids Only)			•			•	•	•		•					
Locust Shade (8 ac) Locust Shade Park. Paddle boats available.	• Trout		•			•	•	•		•	•		•		
Lunga Reservoir (670 ac) I-95 (Exit 148) to USMC Truck Road and follow signs to lake.	•	•		9.9 HP MAX			•	•		•	•				•
Motts (160 ac) 95 N - 3 W - 639 N - 618 W.	•	•	•		•	FP		•		•	•			NP	
Mtn. Run (75 ac) 29 S - 718 W - 719 N.	•	•	•					•		•	•				
Ni Reservoir (411 ac) 95 N - 3 W - 620 S - 627 S	•	•	•		•			•		•	•				
Occoquan (2,100 ac) two parks off 123 N. Fountainhead Park Prince William Park		•	•	9.9 HP MAX	•	•	•	•		•	•				•
Orange (124 ac) Game Department, off Rt. 629 two miles east of Orange on Rt. 20 S - 629 S.		•	•		•	FP	•	•		•	•			NP	•
Pelham (255 ac) 29 S - 718 N.	•	•						•		•	•				
Phelps Pond (3 ac) Rt. 17 N - Rt. 651 N. Phelps WMA								•		•					
Royal (35 ac) 123 N - R. Zion Rd. - Rt. 20 S - 629 S - R Commonwealth Blvd. - R Gainsborough Dr.			•					•		•	•				
Thompson (10 ac) I-66 W - 688 N G.R. Thompson WMA.		PR						BG	•	•			•		

Key

PR - Primitive Ramp

FP - Fishing Pier

LMB/BG - Largemouth

Bass/Bluegill

SMG - Smallmouth Bass

CF - Catfish

CRP - Crappie

SB - Striped Bass

TR - Trout

MY - Muskellunge

NP - Northern Pike

WE - Walleye

For more information contact:

VDGIF

1320 Belman Road

Fredericksburg, VA 22401

(540) 899-4169

Region 5 – Central Virginia

Lake, Size & Location	Permit Req.	Boat Ramp	Picnic Facil.	Gas Motor	Boat Rental	Handi. Facil.	Conces. Facil.	LMB BG	CF	TR	CRP	SB	CP	WE
Albemarle Parks Dept. Lakes Beaver Creek (104 ac) Follow 680 from Rt. 250 junction west of Charlottesville to lake. Chris Greene (62 ac) Off Rt. 606 one mile from airport. Mint Springs (8 ac) Rt. 684-788 west of Crozet. Totter Creek (66 ac) Rt. 726 to Rt. 845W of Scottsville. Walnut Creek (60 ac) on Rt. 631 south of Charlottesville.	Fee Fee Fee	● ● ● ●	● ●,SW ●,SW ●,SW		Canoe Canoe	● ●		● ● ● ●	● ● ● ●	● ● ●	● ● ● ●		●	
Bryan Park Lakes (12 ac) Richmond, Hermitage Rd/ Lakeside Ave. to Bryan Park.			●			●		●	●					
Chesdin (3,100 ac) I-95 to I-85 S to Rt. 460 W to Rt. 623 N to Rt. 601 W to Rt. 776 N.		●	●	●	●		●	●	●		●	●	●	●
Gordonsville (81 ac) I-64 W to Rt. 15 Boswell Tavern to Rt. 603.	●	●						●	●		●		●	
Henrico County Park Lakes Crump Park (2 ac) Staples Mill Rd. (33 W) to Courtney Road. Deep Run Park (2) (2 ac) I-64 to S. Gaskins Rd. to Ridgefield Parkway. Dorey Park (5 ac) Off Darbytown Rd. Echo (12 ac) Rt. 33 W to Rt. 157 (S of I-295). Three Lakes Park (3) (4 ac) off Rt. 301 N to Wilkinson Rd.			● ● ● ● ●			● ● ● ● ●	● ● ● ● ●	● ● ● ● ●	● ● ●	● ● ●				
Lakeview (42 ac) Rt. 1 to Pickett St.		●	●					●	●					
Northeast Creek (187 ac) 4 miles east of Louisa on Rt. 33.	●	●						●	●		●		●	
Ragged Mountain (50 ac) Rt. 702 off Rt. 29.	●							●	●		●			
Rivanna (450 ac) Rt. 659 off 631 (Rio Rd).		●						●	●		●			
Sugar Hollow Reservoir (47 ac) On Moorman's River 6 mi. west of White Hall on Rt. 614. No boats allowed.										●				
Shields (7 ac) in Byrd Park in Richmond.			●			●		●	●	●				
Swan (13 ac) in Byrd Park in Richmond.			●			●		●	●					
Swift Creek (156 ac) Pocahontas State Park, Rt. 10 to Rt. 655 (Beach Rd) to Rt. 780.		●	●		●	●	●	●	●		●		●	
Va. Dept. of Game & Inland Fisheries Lakes Albemarle (35 ac) In White Hall, take Rt. 614 E to Rt. 675, follow to lake. Fluvanna Ruritan (50 ac) On Rt. 619 off Rt. 58 at Cunningham. Powhatan Ponds (3) (20 ac) Powhatan County Rt. 60W to Rt. 627 to Rt. 662.		● ● PR						● ● ●	● ● ●		● ● ●			

Key

SW - Swimming
 Fee - Fee available at lakes
 LMB/BG - Largemouth Bass/Bluegill
 CF - Catfish
 TR - Trout
 CRP - Crappie
 SB - Striped Bass
 CP - Chain Pickerel
 WE - Walleye
 PR - Primitive Ramp

For more information contact:
 VDGIF 4010 West Broad Street
 Richmond, VA 23230
 (804) 367-6765

2006-2007 Trout Guide



Rainbow trout;
©illustration by Spike Knuth

Introduction

Virginia contains over 2,800 miles of trout streams, in addition to numerous ponds, small lakes and reservoirs. The total includes over 2,300 miles of wild trout streams and about 600 miles of water inhabited with stocked trout. Virginia's diversified trout habitat offers a wide range of trout fishing opportunities.

Virginia's warm climate and topography generally limit trout habitat to the western portion of the state. The Blue Ridge and Allegheny mountains provide the elevation to maintain low water temperatures year-round, while the valleys between these ranges contain the unique limestone formations necessary to produce highly productive spring creeks.

Trout management in Virginia consists of three basic programs. The Catchable Trout Stocking Program is the best known and most popular. Such waters are stocked from October through May with catchable-sized trout. See the Trout Stocking Plan on pages 54–55 for the streams and lakes stocked and their stocking schedule.

The Wild Trout Program includes the management of reproducing populations of brook, rainbow and brown trout. Efforts are directed primarily at habitat preservation and proper regulation for protection of spawning stocks.

The Fingerling Trout Stocking Program involves stocking sub-legal trout into waters that have cold summer water temperatures and a good food source. This is the smallest of the three programs, but includes many of our high quality, special regulation trout fishing waters.

Restrictions have been applied to certain wild trout waters, as well as several types of stocked trout streams, to provide anglers with the opportunity to catch more and larger trout throughout the fishing season. These special regulation areas include some of the state's best trout waters and are described in detail in this guide.

The trout season is open year-round in Virginia. Fishing success for both wild and stocked trout should be very high through the spring, fall and mild winter periods. From June through September, normally low stream flows and warming water temperatures make

trout fishing more difficult. However, experienced trout anglers can find good trout fishing opportunities throughout the year.

All stocked, special regulation, and larger wild trout waters are featured on the five maps beginning on page 62 in this special issue.

New For 2006-2007

There are a few trout regulation changes that were approved by the Board last fall that will go into effect on July 1, 2006. The delayed harvest section of Chestnut Creek (Carroll County) has been extended upstream to Galax to include the entire length of stream paralleling the New River State Park bike trail. This change increases the length of delayed trout water from 2.3 miles to 11.4 miles. Peak Creek in Pulaski County has also been added to the delayed harvest program. This regulation change does not affect the historic stocked section of Peak Creek, rather it's a new 2.7 mile section located in the Town of Pulaski. Finally, Cabin Creek (Grayson County) has been added to those special regulation wild trout waters where single hooked artificial lures are required and the minimum size limit is nine inches. The section of Cabin Creek placed under this regulation is that portion of stream within the Grayson Highlands State Park and brings all the Park streams under the same regulation.

There have been a few changes in the annual trout stocking plan. Wolf Creek in the town of Narrows (Giles County) was added to the program as a Category B water. The stock section is about 2 miles in length and extends from just above its confluence with New River, upstream through the town. There are numerous pull-offs along Rts. 61 and 724 as well as two small town parks that provide easy access. The biggest news for this year is that the Urban Trout Program has been reinstated. This program was discontinued in 2003 due to agency budget cuts and has been redesigned for this fall. Stocking will occur in four of the previously stocked waters. Details of the new program can be found on page 51.

Catchable Trout Stocking Program

As in most states, put-and-take trout fishing draws the most interest and attention in Virginia, probably because of the availability of catchable-sized trout and ease of capture. Virginia's catchable program is supported by hatcheries located at Marion, Paint Bank and Wytheville. Three additional rearing facilities are located at Marion, Montebello and Williamsville.

Trout eggs are collected from large brood stock in early fall and placed in incubator trays. This helps to maintain an even flow of well-oxygenated water through the eggs. Once the embryo is developed, trays must be constantly cleaned and dead eggs removed to control disease. After 25–30 days the trout begin to hatch. The small "fry," as they are called, remain attached to their egg sacs for about 14 days, and draw their food from it. The fry are kept indoors in small troughs until their sacs are absorbed and they begin taking small, pelleted food. When they reach a suitable fingerling stage (2–3 inches) they are transported to rearing facilities where they are placed in raceways.

The fish are fed several times daily for at least a year until they reach catchable size (9–11 inches). During this rearing period, it is necessary to clean raceways daily to control disease and occasionally grade fish to ensure that the larger trout will not eat smaller ones.

The program is covered primarily from the sale of trout licenses. In addition to a valid state freshwater fishing license, a trout license

is required to legally fish in designated stocked trout waters. Annual output from the program is approximately 1,250,000 catchable trout, in addition to variable numbers of fingerling and subcatchable trout used in other programs.

By January 1, most streams on the stocking list will have already received at least one stocking and will continue to be stocked through spring. Stockings will be discontinued by the end of May and will resume after October 1. Streams and lakes will be stocked at various intervals, depending on their potential to hold trout during the late spring and early fall. Fishermen should find that most streams have good numbers of trout throughout the stocking season.

Waters to be stocked are listed by county in the Trout Stocking Plan (see pages 54–55). The plan indicates the frequency of stocking and the specific stocking periods for each stream. Call your local VDGIF office for more information. For daily trout stocking updates during stocking season, call 1-434-525-FISH (3474) or check our Web site at www.dgif.virginia.gov.

Stocked trout streams are marked with appropriate signs, which identify the portion of stream stocked. Marked sections are open to public fishing, in accordance with agreements between the Department and private landowners. This is the only case where anglers are not required to have landowner permission before fishing on private water.

Urban Trout Program

The Department's Urban Trout Fishing Program operated from 1993 through 2002. In 2003, the program was discontinued due to agency budget cuts as a result of the state's budget crisis. Starting in November, 2006, the Urban Trout Program will return to four lakes in a somewhat different format. These waters will receive trout stockings at three times; once in November, once in late December or early January, and once in late February. Although the stockings are not as frequent as in the past, there will be a two to three fold increase in number of trout per stocking. This will provide extended periods of quality angling, be more cost effective, and provide similar total numbers of stocked trout for these waters. The four lakes included in this year's program are: Cook Lake (Alexandria), Dorey Park Lake (Henrico County), Shields Lake (Richmond), and Northwest River Park (Chesapeake). Anglers are reminded that a trout license is required in addition to a fishing license between November 1 and April 30. Juveniles under age 16 need no licenses. For more information, call Fisheries Division at (540) 899-4169.

Special Regulations

Fee Fishing Areas

The fee fishing areas offer put-and-take trout fishing with the added advantage that trout are stocked several times weekly throughout the season. The fee fishing program operates from the first Saturday in April through September at Clinch Mountain and Crooked Creek and from the first Saturday in April through June 15 and from September 15 through October 31 at Douthat. For those anglers who miss the opening day of trout season, the fee fishing areas still provide this opportunity on the first Saturday in April when they open at 9:00 a.m. During the fee fishing season, a daily permit is required in addition to a valid Virginia freshwater fishing license. After the fee fishing season, these areas revert to designated

stocked trout waters and a trout license is required instead of the daily permit. The creel limit at these areas is six fish per day.

Clinch Mountain Fee Fishing Area

The Clinch Mountain Fee Fishing Area is located in southwest Virginia, about 7 miles west of Saltville. The area consists of approximately 7 miles of Big Tumbling Creek and its two major tributaries, Briar Cove Creek and Laurel Bed Creek. Big Tumbling Creek is a large, steep gradient stream with numerous small waterfalls and large, deep rocky pools. The two tributaries are much smaller with a more moderate gradient. Laurel Bed Lake is no longer part of the fee fishing program and does not require the daily permit. However, the lake continues to be managed for trout as well as for flow augmentation for Big Tumbling Creek. Trout are stocked daily (except Sunday) throughout the fee period in the streams, and fishing begins at 6 a.m. daily, except for opening day. Camping is available at the area and VDGIF owns and manages the surrounding land.

Crooked Creek Fee Fishing Area

Crooked Creek is located in Carroll County, 5 miles east of Galax. The area consists of 5 miles of stream, which is stocked. In addition, approximately 2 miles of the stream is managed as a wild trout fishery. Crooked Creek is a wide, fairly low gradient stream with a gravel bottom. The surrounding land is mixed fields and woodlots, not characteristic of the more common mountain stream drainages. Fishing must cease at 7:00 p.m. to allow for restocking. No camping facilities are available at Crooked Creek, but private facilities are available nearby.

Douthat Lake Fee Fishing Area

The Douthat Fee Fishing Area includes about 4 miles of Wilson Creek along with the stocking of 60-acre Douthat Lake. This fee fishing area has two features designed to encourage children to participate. A small "children-only" area has been established on Wilson Creek, just below the dam. In addition, children 12 years of age and under can fish without a permit throughout the fee-fishing area as long as they are accompanied by a permitted adult and their combined creel does not exceed that of the adult. The lake provides fishing for bass, bluegill, crappie, pickerel and catfish, in addition to trout, which are stocked twice weekly. During most summer months, conditions become unfavorable for trout stocking. Therefore, at Douthat, the fee fishing season runs from the first Saturday in April through June 15 and from September 15 through October 31. From June 16 through September 14, no trout will be stocked and no daily fee or trout license is required although trout fishing opportunities will remain for trout still present in the lake from previous stockings. The lake, stream and surrounding land are located within Douthat State Park and are administered by the Virginia Division of Parks and Recreation. Available recreation includes camping, hiking and swimming in addition to fishing. Cabins are also available for rent if application is made well in advance. The park is located in a beautiful mountain setting with most of the surrounding land within the George Washington National Forest.

Delayed Harvest Trout Streams

This program incorporates aspects of both catch-and-release and put-and-take trout fishing. Catchable-sized trout are stocked in the fall, winter and spring. From October 1 through the following May

31, only artificial lures may be used, and all fish must be returned unharmed. From June 1 through September 30 general trout regulations are in effect and trout may be creelied. A trout license is required to fish these waters from October 1 through June 15.

Accotink Creek (Fairfax County)

The delayed harvest section of Accotink Creek extends from Route 236 (Little River Turnpike) downstream 1.9 miles to Route 620 (Braddock Road). This stream section is bound by a Fairfax County Park Authority (FCPA) floodplain park that belies the stream's urban setting (the upper boundary is adjacent to the Capital Beltway). The stream contains numerous riffle-run-pool sequences with good holding pools, and it has an abundance of large woody debris. Primary access is via the FCPA Wakefield Park facility off Braddock Road.

Back Creek (Bath County)

The rugged mountains that form the backdrop to the Back Creek special regulation area are one of the area's most appealing features. The stream is about 25 feet in width with moderate gradient and excellent flyfishing opportunities. The stream has been extensively reconstructed to improve trout habitat by Dominion Virginia Power, who constructed a pump storage facility just upstream. The land adjacent to this stream section is managed for recreation by Dominion Virginia Power. In addition to trout fishing, the area offers a campground, picnic pavilion, outdoor games and two warmwater lakes for fishing and swimming. Take Route 39 west from Warm Springs to Mountain Grove, then right on Route 600 for 6 miles.

Chestnut Creek (Carroll County)

Chestnut Creek was established as a delayed harvest water in 2001. The original special regulation section extended 2.3 miles upstream from its confluence with the New River to Route 793. Changes approved last fall will extend the special regulation upstream to the Rt. 58 bridge in Galax for a total of 11.4 miles. The stream parallels the New River Trail State Park which offers a unique hiking and biking opportunity to access the many rock ledges and large pools common to this reach of stream. Parking is available at state road crossings and at the trail head in Galax. In addition to the state park, many private landowners have made this program possible and anglers should be sure to respect adjoining private property. The first stocking in the new section of stream will take place in October 2006.



Brown trout; ©illustration by Spike Knuth

Hardware River (Fluvanna County)

Although located in Virginia's piedmont region, the rocky outcrops, cliffs and steep banks of Hardware River resemble a mountain stream. This aesthetically pleasing section of river, located within the Hardware River Wildlife Management Area (WMA), will likely become a favorite destination for trout anglers. The special regulation area covers a 2.6 mile section of the Hardware River from Muleshoe Bend downstream to the Route 646 bridge. From the west, the river and the Hardware River WMA is accessed by taking Route 6 east from Scottsville then turning right onto Route 611 to the Kidd's Mill Road parking area. To access the eastern portion of the WMA, continue east on Route 6 and turn right onto Route 646. Detailed maps and information on the Hardware River WMA can be obtained from any of the Department's offices or from the Department's Web site.

Holliday Creek (Appomattox/Buckingham Counties)

The Holliday Creek delayed harvest section is located completely within the Appomattox/Buckingham State Forest. The 2.8 mile section stretches from just above Holliday Lake upstream to Route 640. The stream is approximately 15–25 feet in width and runs through a remote, heavily wooded section of forest that can be accessed by taking Route 24 north out of Appomattox to Route 626. Anglers should turn onto Routes 640 or 614 to access a series of foot trails to the stream that have been developed by the Virginia Department of Forestry (VDOT). Despite the fact that this stream is located in the piedmont of Virginia, anglers will be surprised by the quality of the fishing experience available.

Holmes Run (Fairfax County)

Holmes Run, below Lake Barcroft, boasts some amazing habitat for an urban stream. Much of this may be due to the lake's buffering of storm water and silt loads. Consequently, Holmes Run in the 1.2 mile stretch between the Barcroft Dam and the Alexandria line is more characteristic of a less impacted, natural stream. The stream valley is incised, and during months when the forest canopy is intact; urban sounds and sights are nearly eliminated. Anglers will find good fish cover in the form of bedrock, boulders and large woody debris. A fairly good trail follows (and sometimes crosses) the stream from the parking lot off Columbia Pike (Route 244).

North Fork of Pound River and Pound River (Wise County)

The delayed harvest section begins at the base of the North Fork of Pound Dam and extends downstream about 2 miles to the confluence of Indian Creek. Above Route 23, the North Fork of the Pound River is a medium-sized stream with shallow runs and riffles flowing through fields and woodlots. Downstream of Route 23 the river passes through the town of Pound, gaining size and flow, and taking on a more urban setting. Access is available at the North Fork of Pound Dam and at parking lots within the town of Pound. This stream provides high catch rates and good fishing opportunities from October through early summer.

North River (Augusta County)

The delayed harvest section of the North River extends from the base of Elkhorn Dam downstream 1.5 miles to the head of the Staunton City Reservoir. This is a remote section of stream that can

only be reached by foot trail. Access is available by parking at Elkhorn Lake and following the trail along the lake to the spillway. This area provides a remote, scenic fishing opportunity during the winter and spring months. Stream flow in the North River is usually low during summer and fall, and the fall trout stocking is often delayed until adequate water flow is available.

Passage Creek (Warren County)

The delayed harvest section of Passage Creek extends from the Warren County line downstream approximately 1 mile through the Department's Front Royal Fish Hatchery. This section of stream is immediately downstream of the area that has historically been stocked under the put-and-take program. Parking is available on Forest Service lands adjacent to Route 678 or on Department lands adjacent to Route 619.

Peak Creek (Pulaski County)

Peak Creek will become Delayed Harvest trout water beginning in July 2006 from the confluence of Tract Fork downstream to the State Route 99 bridge. The first trout stocking in this 2.7 mile stretch will begin in October 2006. Approximately 1 mile of this section is in downtown Pulaski. The town is undergoing a revitalization project with recreation along Peak Creek being highlighted. This new stocking program fits right in with official plans, as trout stockings will greatly increase angling potential where little currently exists.

Pedlar River (Amherst County)

The Pedlar River delayed harvest section is 2.7 miles in length and is located below the Lynchburg City Reservoir in the George Washington National Forest, southeast of Buena Vista. Anglers should be prepared for a considerable walk to the stream in steep terrain. The stream contains abundant deep pool and run habitat during the winter, spring and early summer months, and it provides great fly fishing opportunities. Water levels during the late summer and fall months can be low due to a lack of water leaving the reservoir. The U.S. Forest Service and the Department have cooperated in the development of three access sites to the river located along FS 39 off Route 607.

Roanoke River (Roanoke County and City of Salem)

There are two delayed harvest sections located on the Roanoke River near Roanoke. The first section is located within Green Hill Park in Roanoke County and was established in 2001. The newest section is located within the City of Salem and was established in 2003. The Green Hill Park section is easily found off Route 11/460 west of Salem and stretches from the Route 760 Bridge (Diguids Lane) upstream 1 mile to a sign posted at the upper end of the park. It is best to access the stream from the park side of the stream, and anglers are encouraged to use the parking areas provided. In addition to trout fishing, Green Hill Park offers picnic facilities and other recreational opportunities for family activities. The Salem section is located along Riverside Drive and stretches from the Colorado Street Bridge downstream approximately 2 miles to the Route 419 bridge. This section of delayed harvest water is most easily accessed from the Riverside Drive side of the river. Both of these sections are located in an urban setting and provide big stream fishing in a pleasant environment. The stream is approximately 50–75 feet in width and has ample riffle/run habitat for wade fishing, as well as pool habitat for anglers who prefer bank fishing.

South River (Augusta County)

The delayed harvest section extends from the Second Street bridge in Waynesboro upstream 2.4 miles to the base of Rife Loth Dam. This stream section runs through the City of Waynesboro and is in an urban setting. South River is a relatively large, wide stream with shallow runs and riffles. The stream provides outstanding fly-fishing opportunities because of its size and its abundance of aquatic insects. The stream is open to fishing year-round and provides excellent winter fishing.

Catchable Trout Stocking Plan

A few changes have occurred within the catchable trout program for this year. Wolf Creek in Giles County will be added to the program as a category B water. The stock section is about 2 miles in length and extends from just above its confluence with the New River, upstream through the town of Narrows. The biggest news for this year is that the Urban Trout Program has been reinstated. This program was discontinued in 2003 due to agency budget cuts and has been redesigned for this fall. Stocking will occur in 4 of the previously stocked waters. Details of the new program can be found on page 51.

Finally, a reminder about Trout Heritage Day. This program was added several years ago for those anglers who enjoyed and missed the old opening day. Selected waters are stocked for the first Saturday in April to create an announced stocking event. The Heritage Day waters for 2007 remain the same as 2006 and are listed below. These streams and lakes are closed to fishing on Friday, April 2nd for stocking and will re-open to fishing at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, April 7th. For closing and openings on Fee Fishing Areas see page 51.

Trout Heritage Waters for 2007

The following waters will be stocked for Heritage Day on April 7.

Beartree Lake	Washington County
Bark Camp Lake	Scott County
Clinch Mountain Fee Fishing Area*	Washington County
Cripple Creek (Ravens Cliff)	Wythe County
Crooked Creek Fee Fishing Area*	Carroll County
Douthat Lake Fee Fishing Area*	Bath County
Jennings Creek	Botetourt County
Lake Witten	Tazewell County
Liberty Lake	Bedford County
Lincolnshire Lake	Tazewell County
Middle Fork Holston River	Smyth County
Passage Creek	Shenandoah County
Pedlar River (upper)	Amherst County
Pigg River	Franklin County
Rose River	Madison County
Tinker Creek	Roanoke County

*The fee fishing areas are closed to angling from April 2–April 6. Heritage Waters are closed on April 6. On April 7 fishing can begin at 9:00 a.m.

Catchable Trout Stocking Plan

These waters require a trout license between October 1 and June 15

Urban Waters require trout license November 1-April 30.

ALBEMARLE COUNTY

Mint Springs Lake (Upper)	A
Mint Springs Lake (Middle)	A
Moormans River (N.Fork)	B (NSF)
Moormans River (S.Fork)	B (NSF)
Sugar Hollow Reservoir	A

ALEXANDRIA CITY

Cook Lake	U
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ALLEGHANY COUNTY

Clifton Forge Reservoir*	A
Jerrys Run*	C
Pounding Mill Creek*	B
Smith Creek*	C (NSF)

AMHERST COUNTY

Davis Mill Creek*	C
Little Irish Creek*	C (NSF)
Pedlar River (Below dam)*	DH
Pedlar River (Lower)*	A
Pedlar River (Upper)*	B (H)
Piney River (S.Fk.and Proper)*	B (NSF)
Rocky Row Run*	C

APPOMATTOX COUNTY

Holliday Creek	DH
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AUGUSTA COUNTY

Back Creek*	B
Braley Pond*	A
Elkhorn Lake*	A
Falls Hollow*	C (NSF)
Hearthstone Lake*	A
Lower Sherando Lake*	A
Mills Creek*	C
North River (Natural Chimneys)	B
North River (Gorge)*	B
North River (Upper)*	B (NSF)
North River (Tail)*	DH
South River (Ridgeview Park)	A
South River	DH\
Upper Sherando Lake*	B

BATH COUNTY

Back Creek	DH
Back Creek*	A
Bullpasture River	A
Douthat Lake and Wilson Creek	+
Jackson River Special Reg.*	A
Jackson River (Hidden Valley)*	A
Jackson River (Rt.623)*	A
Pads Creek*	B
Spring Run	A

BEDFORD COUNTY

Liberty Lake	A (H)
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BLAND COUNTY

Laurel Fork Creek	C
Lick Creek	B
Wolf Creek	A

BOTETOURT COUNTY

Jennings Creek*	A (H)
McFalls Creek*	C
Middle Creek*	B
North Creek*	B
Roaring Run*	B

BUCHANAN COUNTY

Dismal River	A
Russell Fork River	C

CARROLL COUNTY

Chestnut Creek	DH
Crooked Creek	A **
Little Reed Island Creek	A
Lovills Creek	C
Stewarts Creek	B (NSF)

CHESAPEAKE CITY

Northwest River Park	U
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CRAIG COUNTY

Barbours Creek*	B (NSF)
Potts Creek*	A

DICKENSON COUNTY

Cranesnest River	B
Frying Pan Creek	C
Pound River (Flannagan Dam)	A
Russell Fork River (Haysi)	B
Russell Fork River (Bartlick)	A

FAIRFAX COUNTY

Accotink Creek	DH
Holmes Run	DH

FAUQUIER COUNTY

Thompson WMA Pond	A
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FLOYD COUNTY

Burkes Fork	A
Goose Creek	B
Howells Creek	B (NSF)
Laurel Fork	B
Little Indian Creek	B (NSF)
Little River	A
Mira Fork	C (NSF)
Rush Fork	C (NSF)
West Fork Little River	B (NSF)

FLUVANNA COUNTY

Hardware River	DH
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FRANKLIN COUNTY

Runnett Bag Creek	B
Pigg River	A

FREDERICK COUNTY

Clearbrook Lake	A
Hogue Creek	B
Paddy Run*	B
Winchester Lake	A

GILES COUNTY

Big Stoney Creek*	A
Dismal Creek*	B (NSF)
Wolf Creek	B

GRAYSON COUNTY

Big Wilson Creek	A
Elk Creek	A
Fox Creek*	B
Hales Lake*	A
Helton Creek	B
Middle Fox Creek	B

GREENE COUNTY

South River	B
Swift Run	C

HENRICO COUNTY

Dorey Park Lake	U
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HENRY COUNTY

Smith River (Dam)	B
Smith River (Lower)	A

HIGHLAND COUNTY

Bullpasture River	A
S.Br.Potomac River	B

LEE COUNTY

Martins Creek	A
North Fork Powell River	A

MADISON COUNTY

Hughes River	A
Robinson River	A
Rose River	A (H)

MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Craig Creek*	B
Pandapas Pond*	A
Poverty Creek*	C
Toms Creek	B

NELSON COUNTY

South Rockfish River	C (NSF)
Tye River	A

PAGE COUNTY

Cub Run*	B
Hawksbill Creek	A
Upper Passage Creek*	C

PATRICK COUNTY

Ararat River	B
Clarks Creek	B
Dan River (Above Talbott)	B (NSF)
Dan River (Below Powerhouse)	A
Poorhouse Creek	C (NSF)
Rockcastle Creek	B
Round Meadow Creek	C (NSF)
South Mayo River (North Fork)	C
South Mayo River (South Fork)	

PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY

Quantico MCB	B (NSF)
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PULASKI COUNTY

Peak Creek	B
Peak Creek	DH

RICHMOND CITY

Shield Lake	U
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ROANOKE COUNTY

Glade Creek	A
Roanoke River (City)	A
Roanoke River (Green Hill Park)	DH
Roanoke River (Salem)	A
Roanoke River (Salem)	DH
Tinker Creek	A (H)

ROCKBRIDGE COUNTY

Irish Creek*	B
Maury River	A
Mill Creek*	A
South River	B

ROCKINGHAM COUNTY

Briery Branch Lake*	A
Dry River	B (NSF)
German River	C
Hone Quarry Lake*	A
Hone Quarry Run*	C
North Fork Shenandoah River	B
Silver Lake	B
Slate Lick Lake*	B
Slate Lick Run*	B
South River (Grottoes)	A

RUSSELL COUNTY

Big Cedar Creek	A
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SCOTT COUNTY

Bark Camp Lake*	A (H)
Big Stony Creek	B
Little Stony Creek*	B
Stock Creek	B
Straight Fork (Lower)	C

SHENANDOAH COUNTY

Mill Creek	B
Passage Creek*	A (H)

Peters Mill Creek*	C
Stony Creek	A
Tomahawk Pond*	B

SMYTH COUNTY

Comers Creek*	C
Cressy Creek*	C
Dickey Creek*	C
Hurricane Creek*	C
Middle Fork Holston River (Marion)	A (H)
Middle Fork Holston River (Upper)	B
South Fork Holston River (Buller Dam)*	A
South Fork Holston River (Lower)	A
Staley Creek	A

STAUNTON CITY

Lake Tams	B
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TAZEWELL COUNTY

Lake Witten	A (H)
Laurel Creek*	C
Lincolnshire Lake	A (H)
Little Tumbling Creek	B

WARREN COUNTY

Happy Creek	B
Passage Creek	DH

WASHINGTON COUNTY

Beartree Lake*	A (H)
Big Brumley Creek	C
Big Tumbling Creek	A **
Straight Branch*	C
Tennessee Laurel	A
Valley Creek	C
Whitetop Laurel (Lower)*	A
Whitetop Laurel (Upper)*	A

WISE COUNTY

Clear Creek*	C
Middle Fork Powell River	B
Pound River/N.Fk. Pound River	DH

WYTHE COUNTY

Cripple Creek (Rt. 94)	A
Cripple Creek (Ravens)	A (H)
Gullion Fork Ponds*	B
Rural Retreat Lake Pond	A
Stoney Creek*	C
West Fork Reed Creek*	C



Category A stocked in each of the following periods: October (once), November or December (once), January or February; (once), March (twice), April (twice), and May (once).

Category B stocked in each of the following periods: November or December (once), January or February (once), March--May 15 (three times).

Category C stocked three times between October and April 30.

* National Forest Waters

+ Douthat stocked as Category A, Wilson as Category B put-and-take water after fee fishing season

DH Delayed Harvest Water-Special Regulations apply, please refer to article on Delayed Harvest page 51.

(NSF) These waters do not receive fall & early winter stockings

****** A section of these waters is reserved for a fee fishing area

(H) These waters will receive a stocking for the "Heritage Day" program. Heritage Day is April 1. For details see the section explaining Heritage Day in this magazine.

U Urban fishing waters, trout license required November 1 through April 30, stocked once in November, once in late December or early January and once in late February

Stocking information for put-and-take stocking can be obtained by calling 1-434-525-FISH (525-3474). The recording is updated after 4:00 p.m. each day fish are stocked. Or go to our Web site.

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Wild Trout Program

Wild trout populations require cold, well-oxygenated water, a clean stream bottom and good fish cover. In Virginia, most trout habitat losses occur through increased stream temperature, siltation and stream channel alteration.

Water temperature requirements may be the most critical factor facing Virginia's trout populations, and the state's generally warm climate and normally low summer stream flows do not help the situation. Most shaded mountain streams do not exceed 70°F during the summer, which is suitable for trout. Aquatic habitat and suitable water temperature can be maintained even during logging and farming operations when streamside vegetation is left intact. In most cases, maximum stream temperatures in the low 70s are within the tolerable range for trout, but such temperatures improve the habitat for other stream fishes which trout cannot compete against.

Siltation and other more direct forms of habitat alteration, such as channelization, have also cost Virginia many miles of trout water. Silted stream bottoms decrease the stream's insect population, an important source of trout food. Siltation also makes trout reproduction difficult. Trout lay eggs in stream gravel, and clean gravel is necessary to insure movement of oxygenated water over the eggs. As little as a quarter-inch of silt over trout eggs can result in 100 percent mortality.

Alteration of stream channels is also of critical concern, not only due to the increased siltation it causes, but also due to the removal of fish cover and the potential to raise water temperatures. Trout require overhead cover, such as undercut banks, large rocks or submerged logs. When such cover is removed, the trout leave. Lack of suitable cover limits the number of large trout a stream can support.

Virginia lost many good wild trout populations prior to the mid-1970s due to habitat degradation. However, many of the land-use practices that resulted in those losses—widespread stream channelization, poor logging techniques, removal of streamside vegetation, intensive agriculture in riparian areas, etc.—have been improved to the point where, over the past few decades, the physical habitat has been improving. In addition, the Department maintains a current inventory of wild trout streams that provides the data necessary to protect this critical habitat.

The Department's trout stream inventory identifies over 2,300 miles of wild trout streams in Virginia. Biologists are encouraged to find that brook trout, the only trout species native to Virginia, still

accounts for 80 percent of the wild trout resource in the state. Rainbow trout, a western introduction, have taken over many of the native brook trout streams in the other southeastern states. As a result, Virginia currently has more native brook trout streams than all other southeastern states combined.

Growth rates of wild trout, particularly brook trout, in Virginia are exceptional when compared with growth rates for similar streams in neighboring states. In most Virginia streams, adult brook trout average 8–10 inches by their third year of age. In respect to the number of streams available and the size of trout present, Virginia probably offers the best native brook trout fishing south of New England.

Unlike warmwater fish, such as bass and bluegill, trout have a very low ability to reproduce. Therefore, in heavily fished areas, it is imperative to protect trout until they are able to spawn at least once. In order to accomplish this objective, a 7-inch minimum size limit has been imposed on all trout creel in Virginia. Such a limit will allow most wild trout to reach spawning age before they are subject to harvest.

Special Regulation Wild Trout Streams

In the following streams regulations require the use of single hook, artificial lures, and all trout less than 9 inches in length be returned to the water unharmed. The exceptions are: the Rapidan River and its tributaries; Stewart's Creek; North Fork Moorman River; Dan River; East Fork of Chestnut Creek; Roaring Fork; North Creek, and South Fork Holston River, which require the release of all fish caught, and Whitetop Laurel/Green Cove Creeks, which have a 12-inch minimum size limit.

Buffalo River (Amherst County)

Special regulations apply to that portion of North Fork of Buffalo River and its tributaries within the George Washington National Forest. Access is available by forest trail off Forest Road 51 or from the end of State Route 635. Buffalo River is a moderate to high gradient stream dominated by large boulders and deep pools. The stream contains a good, native brook trout population with numerous fish 8–10 inches in length.

Big and Little Wilson Creeks and Cabin Creek (Grayson County)

The special regulation sections of Big Wilson and Little Wilson Creeks and their tributaries, Quebec Branch, Wilburn Branch and Mill Creek, include all portions of each stream within the boundaries of Grayson Highlands State Park and the Mount Rogers National Recreation Area. The special regulation on Cabin Creek includes all that portion of the stream within Grayson Highlands State Park and brings all of the streams within the Park under one regulation. These streams provide a good opportunity to fish for both wild rainbow trout and native brook trout. Brook trout are generally restricted to the headwater sections of these streams while rainbows are found throughout. Big Wilson Creek offers some spectacular scenery. Large boulders dominate the stream channel interspersed with deep pools and occasional falls. Access can be gained through Grayson Highlands State Park on Route 806 and 817 off U.S. Route 58. Be prepared to do some hiking to fish this area.



Brown trout; ©illustration by Spike Knuth

Conway River/Devils Ditch (Greene County)

Special regulations apply to that portion of Conway River and its major tributary, Devils Ditch, within the Rapidan Wildlife Management Area and the Shenandoah National Park. The stream contains brook trout in the upper reaches with wild brown trout scattered through the lower portions. Adult brook trout range from 7–11 inches in length; brown trout occasionally exceed 20 inches. The stream lies north of Stanardsville and can be reached by Route 615 from Graves Mill.

Dan River (Patrick County)

The section of the Dan River in Patrick County from the Pinnacles Powerhouse upstream to Townes Dam is designated as a catch-and-release trout fishery. Wild brown trout are the dominant species in this stretch, although the occasional brook or rainbow trout may be caught. This is a moderate sized river with a steep gradient and many large, deep pools. The numbers of brown trout present are relatively low (a rough guide would be 2–4 fish/pool), but the size of the fish is above average (fish up to 16 inches are not uncommon).

This portion of the river can be reached by taking Route 8 south from Stuart to Route 103 west, turn right on Route 648 at Claudeville and proceed to the powerhouse at the end of the road. The upper end of this section can be reached by taking Route 614 south from Meadows of Dan, turning left on Route 602, and proceeding to Townes Dam. A permit from the City of Danville is required to access the special regulation section, and it can be obtained at no charge from the Pinnacles Powerhouse or from the City Utilities Department. Contact: City of Danville, Director of Electric Division, Department of Utilities, P.O. Box 3300, Danville, VA 24543. Phone 434/799-5270.

East Fork of Chestnut Creek (Grayson and Carroll Counties)

The East Fork of Chestnut Creek, locally known as Farmer's Creek, is designated a catch-and-release trout fishery. The special regulation section includes all portions of the creek upstream of the Blue Ridge Parkway. The lower mile of the special regulation area is a low gradient, native brook trout stream with numerous deep pools and undercut banks. The stream decreases in size and increases in gradient upstream, and it is characterized by numerous small plunge pools and a dense rhododendron canopy. Adult brook trout average 8–13 inches in length with occasional larger fish in the lower reaches. The stream lies south of Galax, crossing the Blue Ridge Parkway a short distance east of Route 89.

Little Stony Creek (Giles County)

Special regulations apply to that portion of Little Stony Creek in the Jefferson National Forest. Most of the special section is below the Cascades waterfall. The upper reaches of Little Stony Creek contain native brook trout, but rainbow trout comprise most of the trout population below the Cascades. Adult rainbows average 7–12 inches in length. The area is heavily used by hikers and picnickers. The stream is located near Pembroke and can be reached by Route 623.

Little Stony Creek (Shenandoah County)

Little Stony Creek is a small mountain brook trout stream. The special regulations apply to that portion of stream located within the

George Washington National Forest, including Woodstock Reservoir. Adult brook trout presently average 7–10 inches in length. The stream is located west of Woodstock and the Forest Service Road 92 crosses the lower portion of the special regulation section. Much of the upper reaches can only be reached by foot trail.

North Creek (Botetourt County)

The upper section of the stream (upstream of the North Creek campground) was designated a catch-and-release trout stream in 1999. Rainbow trout predominate, although brook trout are present as well. Adult trout will range from 7–12 inches. The stream is located east of Buchanan, a short distance from I-81. The Jefferson National Forest maintains a campground adjacent to the stream and vehicular access is available along most of its length.

North Fork Moormans River (Albemarle County)

That portion of the Moormans River lying within the Shenandoah National Park is designated as catch-and-release. This stream historically contained an excellent population of brook trout throughout with a small population of brown trout in the lower reaches. However, the 1995 flood significantly altered habitat along the lower section of river. Brook trout have been slow to recover in this section and brown trout seem to have been eliminated. The brook trout population remains strong in the upper section of stream and anglers are encouraged to hike upstream to fish. Access to the Moormans River is available over Rt. 614 past Sugar Hollow Reservoir.

Ramsey's Draft (Augusta County)

Ramsey's Draft and its tributaries within the George Washington National Forest provide over 10 miles of native brook trout water. Most of this section of the stream is located within the Ramsey's Draft Wilderness Area, providing the angler with the opportunity to fish for quality native trout in a remote setting. Summer flows are usually quite low in this stream, so plan to fish Ramsey's Draft during the springtime. To reach Ramsey's Draft, drive 15 miles west of Churchville on Route 250 and look for the Mountain Home Picnic Area on the right. A foot trail parallels the stream from the picnic area.

Rapidan River (Madison County)

The Rapidan River is Virginia's best known trout stream. Not only was it the state's first special regulation stream, it was also the site of the Presidential Retreat established by President Hoover. Much of the original Camp Hoover is still intact and is occasionally used. The special regulation area of the Rapidan includes all the stream and its tributaries within the Shenandoah National Park and the Rapidan Wildlife Management Area. The stream contains an excellent native brook trout population with good numbers of 10–11 inch adults.

Access to the Rapidan is available over Route 662 from Graves Mill and over Route 649 from Criglersville.

Roaring Fork (Tazewell County)

This special regulation area is located within the boundaries of the Beartown Wilderness Area of the Jefferson National Forest. Acidification of this stream, resulting in a steadily declining brook

trout population, prompted the inclusion of this stream section into Virginia's catch-and-release trout regulations. Access to the special regulated section is difficult and some hiking will be required. Access can be gained from Forest Service Road 222 off Route 16, south of Tazewell.

St. Mary's River (Augusta County)

The special regulation section includes all portions of the St. Mary's River above the gate at the National Forest boundary. It is a fairly high gradient stream with a number of waterfalls. Although water levels can get quite low along lower reaches, flows are much improved upstream and large, deep pools provide ample trout cover. Adult brook trout average 8–12 inches in length. Historically, the St. Mary's was well-known for its wild rainbow trout fishery, but stream acidification completely eliminated the wild rainbow trout fishery and seriously impacted native brook trout reproduction. In the spring of 1999, the U.S. Forest Service, in cooperation with the Department and other private organizations, limed the St. Mary's River to improve water quality. This effort proved to be very successful at restoring the native brook trout population as well as populations of non-game fish species and invertebrates. However, the positive impacts of this liming have been diminishing over the past two years and, as of this writing, the USFS is planning on completing a second liming operation in fall of 2005. The stream lies east of Raphine off Route 608, a short distance from I-81. Most of the area is accessible by foot trail only and backpacking is popular.

South Fork Holston River (Smyth County)

This section of the South Fork Holston River lies within the boundaries of VDGIF's Buller Fish Hatchery. From the concrete dam downstream to the lower boundary of the hatchery property, only artificial lures with single hooks may be used and all trout caught must be released. This special regulation section of stream provides an excellent opportunity to catch trout of trophy size. Access can be gained through the Buller Fish Hatchery property off Route 650, south of Marion.

Stewart's Creek (Carroll County)

Stewart's Creek is a high-gradient, native brook trout stream with numerous plunge pools, rock ledges and a dense rhododendron canopy for cover. Approximately 4.5 miles of Stewart's Creek and its two major tributaries, North Fork and South Fork Stewart's Creek, are open to the public for year-round fishing as part of the Stewart's Creek Wildlife Management Area.

Stewart's Creek WMA is southeast of Galax on the east side of the Blue Ridge Parkway. Take Exit 1 off I-77. Follow the trailblazer signs to the area.

Whitetop Laurel/Green Cove Creeks (Washington County)

The special regulation area includes two sections. Prior to 1999, the lower mile of Green Cove Creek plus Whitetop Laurel Creek (to the first bridge above the village of Taylors Valley) made up the special regulation area. In 1999, an additional section (that extends from the Forest Service boundary below Taylors Valley, 2 miles downstream to the mouth of Straight Creek) was added. There remains a section of catchable, trout stocked water without special regulations through the village of Taylors Valley. Whitetop Laurel is one of Virginia's largest and most beautiful wild trout streams. Wild

rainbow trout dominate, with most adults in the 7–14 inch class. A few wild brown trout provide occasional trophy fish. The special regulation area is located east of Damascus (near the Tennessee line) and lies within the Mount Rogers Recreation Area. Minimum size limit in this section is 12 inches.

Shenandoah National Park (SNP)

The Park provides an entire region of special regulation trout streams, extending from Front Royal to Waynesboro. Most streams within the Park are open to fishing but only a portion of these allow anglers to creel trout and can change annually. Therefore, check with SNP for their annual fishing regulations. All fishing in the park is restricted to the use of single hook artificial lures. In streams allowing harvest the creel limit is six trout per day, all of which must be 9 inches or more in length. Most streams within the park contain good populations of native brook trout, while a few of the larger east slope streams also contain isolated populations of brown trout.

Fingerling Stocking Program

The fingerling stocking program is the smallest of the state's three management programs. It is designed to take advantage of the natural potential of high-elevation lakes, deep reservoirs, cold-water tailwaters, and spring-fed streams to produce quality trout fishing opportunities where wild fisheries are not possible due to the lack of natural reproduction.

Because summer water temperatures are usually a limiting factor to trout survival in Virginia, under this program a stream or lake must provide suitable, year-round water temperatures for trout survival, have good habitat and be productive enough to provide adequate food for good growth.

Suitable trout waters are stocked once annually with fingerling or subcatchable (smaller than the legal size limit) trout, and often length limits and angling gear restrictions are imposed to protect these small fish until they reach harvestable size. In areas receiving heavy fishing pressure, special gear restrictions are often necessary to avoid high hooking mortality rates that can occur when bait fishing is permitted. These fish will often be caught several times before they eventually reach harvestable size, and the program can only be successful if hooking mortality remains low.

Depending on the length limit, these stocked fish will not reach a legal size for six months to two years. During this time, trout lose most of their hatchery characteristics, both in appearance and behavior, and create a fishery that approaches a wild one in terms of fishing experience.

Some of Virginia's most exciting trout fishing opportunities can be found within our fingerling stocking program, and by stocking small fish once a year, a high quality fishery can be developed at a fraction of the cost of the more common put-and-take program. Many anglers have discovered this quality angling and participation in the program is growing. The Department recognizes this growing interest and is continuing to develop new waters in the state.

Trout Lakes

The warm summer climate of Virginia limits the potential for development of good trout populations in lakes. Numerous small ponds and lakes are stocked under the catchable stocking program (see Trout Stocking Plan), however, very few provide good, year-round trout habitat for management of wild or put-and-grow trout

fisheries. In order to provide adequate coldwater habitat in Virginia, a lake must either be located at high elevations where cool summer temperatures prevail, or be deep enough to maintain a cold layer of water. Virginia has five small lakes at sufficient elevation for trout and one reservoir deep enough to provide a two-story fishery. Two-story reservoirs stratify during summer months, providing an upper, warmwater layer where fish, such as bass, bluegill, crappie and catfish exist and a deep, coldwater layer suitable for trout.

Laurel Bed Lake (Russell County)

Laurel Bed Lake is a 330-acre, mountaintop impoundment located approximately 10 miles northwest of Saltville. The lake is located in the Clinch Mountain Wildlife Management Area and, in addition to providing a unique fishery, is used to augment the flow to Big Tumbling Creek during summer months. Until 1999 Laurel Bed Lake was part of the fee fishing area, but the lake no longer requires a daily permit or a trout license. The fishery is based on stocking sub-catchable brook trout in the fall. Fishing is usually excellent through June, with limits of trout being common. The favored fishing methods include nightcrawlers, mealworms, flies, and spinners. Fishing usually becomes sporadic as the lake temperature increases, with fish hitting well for a few days, then slacking off for several days. Favorite summer fishing spots are located around coves where spring branches enter. Late summer and early fall fishing is dependent on the number of fish that survive through the summer, and this changes significantly from year to year. Limited camping is permitted on the management area and a concession is in operation.

Lexington City Reservoir (Rockbridge County)

The Lexington City Reservoir is a 22-acre, high elevation lake located in Rockbridge County. It is a put-and-grow lake that is stocked annually with brook trout. The brookies have done well in the reservoir and many measure 9–13 inches in length.

It is a long hike across USFS lands to the reservoir and primitive camping is permitted. General fishing regulations are in effect, and no trout stamp is required. However, a \$1.00 daily use permit or a \$15.00 seasonal pass (good from July 1–June 30) is required from Lexington City Hall, (540) 462-3702.

Mills Creek and Coles Run Reservoirs (Augusta County)

Mills Creek (17 acres) and Coles Run (13 acres) are located in the Pedlar Ranger District of the George Washington National Forest. They are both old Augusta County water supply reservoirs that were first opened to fishing in 1990.

The lakes are managed as put-and-grow lakes and are stocked annually with small brook trout. Samples collected show good populations of 10–12 inch brook trout.

There are no facilities and access by foot is about a half mile to Coles Run and 1.5 miles to Mills Creek. For more information, call the Glenwood/Pedlar Ranger District at (540) 291-2188. Access is west of Route 664 at Sherando off Forest Service Road 42.

Skidmore Lake (Switzer Dam)

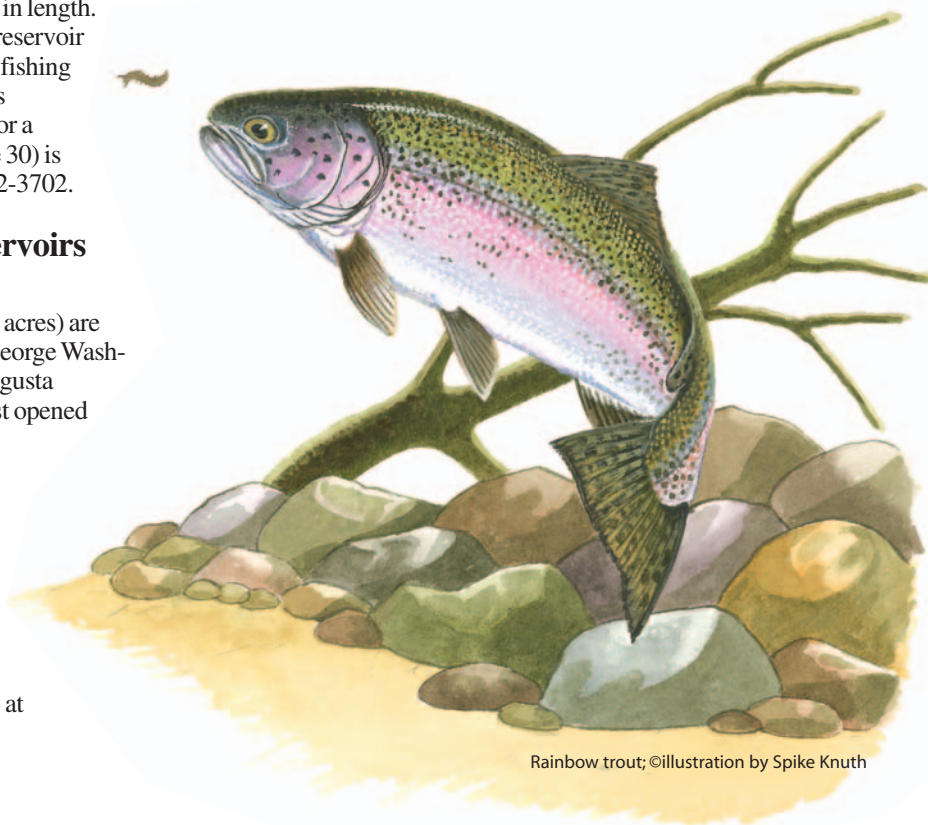
Skidmore Lake is a 104-acre impoundment located off Route 33 west of Harrisonburg. The dam was built by the Soil Conservation Service for flood control and water supply, and it is now managed by the City of Harrisonburg. An access road is available off Route 33. Boats without motors are permitted but must be carried to the water as no ramp is provided. Fingerling brook trout have been stocked since 1976, and fishing has been permitted since 1979. Angler success has been good, with most fish in the 8–14 inch range and an occasional large brook trout of 2–3 pounds. New regulations posted in 2002 require release of all trout less than 10 inches. In addition, the lake has developed a fairly good population of largemouth bass, bluegill, and crappie. In recent years, the city has drawn more water from the lake, and it is not unusual to find the lake well below full pool in late summer and fall, which can make boat access very difficult. No camping is permitted at the lake, but primitive camping is available in the National Forest nearby.

Lake Moomaw (Alleghany/Bath Counties)

This flood control reservoir was completed in 1981 with the closing of the Gathright Dam on the Jackson River. It resulted in the formation of a 13-mile long, 2,530-acre reservoir with more than 43 miles of shoreline.

Much of the shoreline is adjacent to the 13,428-acre Gathright Wildlife Management Area, which is owned and managed by the Department. The average depth of the lake is 80 feet and flow augmentation results in a normal 5 to 15-foot draw down by late summer.

Trout management at the reservoir consists of stocking sub-catchable brown trout and the McConaughy strain of rainbow trout. Regulations were changed in 1995 to reflect the potential of this lake to produce trophy-sized trout. The creel limit was reduced to two trout per day with a minimum size limit of 16 inches.



Rainbow trout; ©Illustration by Spike Knuth

Brown trout fishing has been good in recent years with large numbers of 3–5 pound trout reported caught. McConaughy strain rainbow trout are doing very well, also. Most trout are caught by trolling with shad imitation crankbaits; some are caught still-fishing with live shad 25 feet down and others by jump fishing. Some are caught incidental to bass fishing.

The area around Moomaw provides nearly year-round opportunities for boating water sports, fishing, camping, picnicking, hiking, birding, sight-seeing, photography and hunting.

Boats are restricted to a maximum length of 25 feet. No house boats are allowed and excessive noise is prohibited. Trailer-launched boats must be launched at ramps at Fortney Branch, Bolar Flat or Coles Point. Canoes and cartops can be launched at Coles Mountain Fishing Access, McClintock Bridge, McClintock Point and Midway.

The lake is open 24 hours a day, year-round. There is a 12-inch size limit on bass. Neither a trout license nor a National Forest stamp is required.

The Bolar Mountain Recreation Area provides camping, swimming, beaches, restrooms and picnic grounds. Bolar Flat has a picnic area, a four-lane boat dock, a courtesy dock, a marina and restrooms. There are primitive camping areas at Greenwood and McClintock Point. The Morris Hill Campground and picnic area, the four-lane Fortney Branch ramp and courtesy dock, and the Coles Mountain Area are located on the south end of the lake in Alleghany County. A daily fee is charged for swimming, picnicking, camping and use of boat ramps.

For facilities information, contact the James River Ranger District in Covington (540) 962-2214; the Warm Springs Ranger District in Hot Springs (540) 839-2521 or 839-2442; or the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Covington (540) 962-1138.

Special Regulations

Jackson River Tailwater (Alleghany County)

The Jackson River, below Gathright Dam, provides almost 19 miles of high quality trout fishing on a large river. The river is legally navigable and is easily floated by canoe. Six access points are available for public use, located at about 3 mile intervals. However, several landowners along the upper portion of this section of river have legally established exclusive private rights to the fishery on their properties. Anglers should be careful on where they fish this river.

Regulations on this section of river allow the use of bait and creeling of 4 trout per day over 12 inches in length. Trout populations, which had shown a significant decline after stocking was terminated, have now rebounded. An excellent wild rainbow trout fishery has developed throughout the river and wild brown trout populations continue to expand. Trout density and average size are well above levels seen when trout were stocked. Rainbow trout commonly reach 16 to 18 inches and brown trout 18 to 24 inches.

In the following streams, special regulations require the use of single hook, artificial lures and restrict creel to fish over 12 inches in length. Trout from 6–8 inches are stocked periodically and allowed to grow for a year or two before being creeled. This approach can be used in streams that maintain good flow, cool summer waters and are productive enough for good growth of trout.

Smith Creek (Alleghany County)

The special regulation section extends from the Forest Service boundary (above the old C & O Dam) upstream 2.5 miles to the Clifton Forge Dam. Within this section, fingerling brown trout are stocked once annually. The stream contains good numbers of 8–12 inch brown trout with occasional fish to 20 inches. The stream maintains good flow throughout the year and provides wide, flat pools and good fly-fishing opportunities. The best way to access this stream is by Route 606 from Clifton Forge to the access road for the Clifton Forge Water Plant. Fishermen must park at the entrance and walk a half mile to the stream.

Snake Creek (Carroll County)

Special regulations apply to all of Big Snake Creek below Hall Ford and all of Little Snake Creek below the junction of Routes 922 and 674. The stream is located just north of Fancy Gap. Snake Creek is a moderate gradient, softwater, gravel bottomed stream with an average width of about 18 feet. The holdover of stocked brown trout is good, with some fish reaching 4 pounds. Recent sampling efforts indicate that some natural reproduction of brown trout is also occurring.

Trophy Trout Streams

In the following streams regulations restrict fishing to the use of single hook, artificial lures and the creel is two fish per day over 16 inches (except for Mossy Creek where the creel is one fish per day over 20 inches). Mossy Creek is restricted to fly-fishing only. The management approach is to stock fingerling trout (5–6 inches) in high quality streams where they will grow exceptionally fast.

Buffalo Creek (Rockbridge County)

The special regulation area includes that section of stream from the confluence of Colliers Creek upstream 2.9 miles to the confluence of North and South Forks of Buffalo Creek. The stream flows through private land and requires a written landowner permit to fish, which is available from the Department office in Verona (please include a self-addressed, stamped envelope). Brown and rainbow trout are stocked annually as subcatchables, and good numbers of 10–16 inch fish are available. Trophy fish of 5–8 pounds have been caught in the stream. Buffalo Creek can be reached by taking Route 251 from Lexington.

Dan River (Patrick County)

The special regulation section is located within the Pinnacles Hydroelectric Project in what is known as the “Grand Canyon” of Virginia. The terrain is quite rugged and the scenery is spectacular. The section contains approximately 6 miles of stream and extends from Talbott Dam downstream to the confluence with Townes Reservoir. The fishery is maintained by natural reproduction and consists primarily of rainbow trout in the 8–12 inch size range and brown trout in the 8–18 inch size range. The upper reaches of the special regulation section can be reached by taking Route 614 south from Meadows of Dan. Turn right on Route 601 and proceed to Talbott Dam. The lower reach of the section can only be accessed by boat at the upper end of Townes Reservoir. A permit from the City of Danville is required and can be obtained at no charge from the City Utilities Department or on site at the Pinnacles Powerhouse.

Contact: City of Danville, Director of Electric Division, Department of Utilities, P.O. Box 3300, Danville, VA 24543. Phone: (434) 799-5270.

Jackson River (Bath County)

This section of the Jackson River is stocked several times a year with catchable-sized trout and good populations are always present. The special regulation section extends from the USFS swinging bridge (located just above the mouth of Muddy Run) upstream 3 miles to the last ford on FS 481D. This section can only be reached by foot travel, either from the Hidden Valley area or off Route 623 and FS Road 481. The area provides a remote fishing opportunity on a relatively large, productive stream. A trout license is required to fish in this stream from October 1 through June 15.

Mossy Creek (Augusta County)

The special section includes about 4 miles of stream extending upstream from the Augusta/Rockingham County line. The stream is located just off Route 42 south of Bridgewater. Fishing in Mossy Creek is restricted to fly-fishing only and a written landowner permit must be obtained (available from the Department office in Verona). You must include a self-addressed, stamped envelope). Mossy Creek is a classic, meadow, limestone stream averaging about 15 feet in width and flowing through open pastures. Brown trout in the 3–7 pound class are available to fishermen.

Pound River (Dickenson County)

This special regulation area begins at a sign posted 0.4 miles downstream of John W. Flannagan Dam and extends downstream 1.2 miles almost to the confluence with the Russell Fork River. Located within the rugged Cumberland Mountains, the scenic, tail-water fishery is dependent on coolwater discharges from Flannagan Reservoir. The Pound River immediately below the dam remains in the catchable trout program. Brown trout fingerlings are stocked in the special regulation area periodically to enhance the existing wild brown fishery. Anglers should be able to find occasional rainbow trout, as well as brown trout, up to and exceeding the 16 inch minimum size limit. This section of the Pound River can be accessed from Flannagan Dam, which is owned and operated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Roaring Run (Botetourt County)

The Roaring Run trophy trout section was established in 1999. The 1 mile section is located in the Jefferson National Forest between the third foot bridge upstream of the Roaring Run Furnace Day Use Area and the Botetourt County line. The lower section of Roaring Run (within the National Forest) remains put-and-take water. The trophy section runs through a very steep gorge that has an abundance of deep pools, which are supplied with coldwater from a large limestone spring. The trophy section continues to be developed using annual brown and rainbow fingerling stockings. Trout growth and survival to date has been good for both species of trout. Three-year classes of trout have been established in the stream and fish up to 16 inches are available for anglers. The stream can be accessed by taking Route 615 off US Route 220 west of Eagle Rock to Route 621 at Strom.

Smith River (Henry County)

The special regulation area on the Smith River extends from the mouth of Town Creek (approximately 2.5 miles below Philpott Dam) downstream to the Route 666 bridge at the upper end of the Town of Bassett. This 3-mile section of the river has a large population of wild brown trout. Fish up to 14 inches are common, but larger fish are relatively rare. The habitat in this area consists of large deep pools connected by moderately deep runs and shallow riffles. There is no direct vehicle access to this portion of the river, so you'll have to park at either end and walk into the section. Also, when power is generated at Philpott Dam, the river is too high for wading. You should call the Army Corps of Engineers (the operators of Philpott Dam) at (276) 629-2432 to get the recorded generation schedule before you go fishing.

South Fork Holston River (Smyth County)

The special regulation section is located south of Marion and west of the community of Sugar Grove off Route 16. The area was expanded in 1999 and now includes approximately 4 miles of stream extending from 500 feet above the dam at Buller Hatchery, upstream to the upper Jefferson National Forest boundary (above the crossing of the Appalachian Trail). The South Fork offers the opportunity to fish for both trophy rainbow and brown trout. An abundance of 10–14 inch trout are available.



Brook trout; ©illustration by Spike Knuth

License Requirements

All residents 16 years of age and older are required to possess a state freshwater fishing license to fish for trout. Persons who fish in designated stocked waters (those waters listed in the Trout Stocking Plan) must have an additional trout license. A National Forest Stamp is necessary when fishing in most waters within the George Washington and Jefferson National Forests. Refer to your fishing regulation pamphlet for specific exemptions and costs of licenses.

When fishing in non-designated trout waters, such as wild trout streams or those special regulation areas not listed in the Trout Stocking Plan, the angler does not need a trout license. However, some of the special regulation areas require a signed landowner permit card which can be obtained from certain VDGIF offices and streamside landowners (refer to individual stream descriptions in this guide for details).

Out-of-state anglers who fish designated stocked waters need to purchase both a non-resident state freshwater fishing license (five-day, non-resident licenses are available), a non-resident trout license, and a National Forest Stamp (where appropriate.) For fishing in wild trout or most special regulation waters, the non-resident needs only a non-resident state freshwater fishing license, the appropriate National Forest Stamp and landowner permit cards.

Note: The trout license is only required from October 1 through June 15. From June 16 through September 30 anglers can fish in stocked trout waters without a trout license.

Fee-fishing areas require a state or non-resident freshwater fishing license and a daily fishing permit that can be obtained on site.

Senior citizens holding previously issued (but no longer available) \$5 senior lifetime fishing licenses do not need to purchase any additional fishing or trout licenses. Virginia residents 65 years or older do not need to purchase a National Forest Stamp.

Please consult the regulation pamphlet available where you purchased your license for specific restrictions on size, creel, gear restrictions and season lengths.

More Questions About Trout Fishing?

Call or write to your closest VDGIF office:

Richmond
4010 West Broad St.
P.O. Box 11104
Richmond, VA 23230-1104
(804) 367-9369

Verona
P.O. Box 996
Verona, VA 24482
(540) 248-9360

Fredericksburg
1320 Belman Rd.
Fredericksburg, VA 22401
(540) 899-4169

Forest
1132 Thomas Jefferson Rd.
Forest, VA 24551-9223
(434) 525-7522

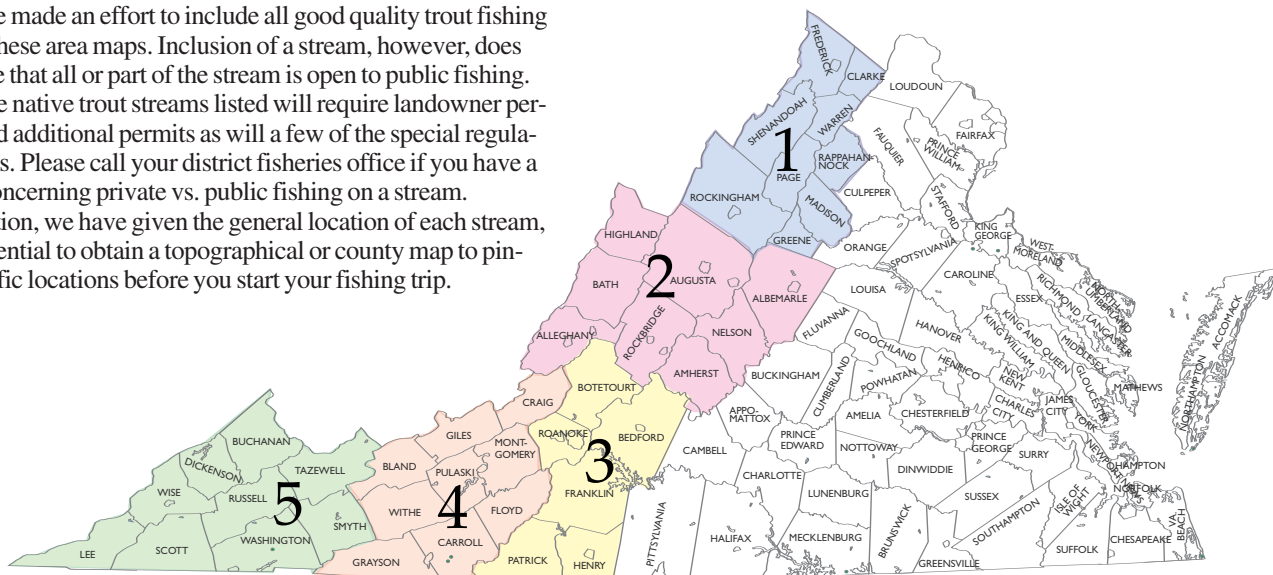
Marion
1796 Highway Sixteen
Marion, VA 24354
(276) 783-4860

Area Maps

Caution:

We have made an effort to include all good quality trout fishing waters on these area maps. Inclusion of a stream, however, does not indicate that all or part of the stream is open to public fishing. Some of the native trout streams listed will require landowner permission and additional permits as will a few of the special regulation streams. Please call your district fisheries office if you have a question concerning private vs. public fishing on a stream.

In addition, we have given the general location of each stream, but it is essential to obtain a topographical or county map to pinpoint specific locations before you start your fishing trip.



Area 1

Legend

- wild trout streams
- stocked trout waters
- special regulation waters
- (SNP) Shenandoah National Park

Frederick County

- (1) Hogue Creek
- (2) Clearbrook Lake
- (3) Winchester Lake
- (4) Paddy Run

Shenandoah County

- (5) Passage Creek
- (6) Little Passage Creek
- (7) Peters Mill Creek
- (8) Stony Creek
- (9) Little Stony Creek
- (10) Mill Creek
- (11) Tomahawk Pond

Rockingham County

- (12) N. Fk. Shenandoah River
- (13) German River
- (14) Slate Lick Lake/Slate Lick Run
- (15) Dry River
- (16) Switzer Lake
- (17) Blacks Run
- (18) Hone Quarry Lake
- (19) Hone Quarry Run
- (20) Briery Branch Lake
- (21) Silver Lake
- (23) Madison Run (SNP)
- (24) Big Run (SNP)
- (26) South River (Grottoes)

Page County

- (27) Naked Creek (SNP)
- (28) Cub Run
- (29) Upper Passage Creek
- (30) Hawksbill Creek
- (31) Jeremys Run (SNP)

Rappahannock County

- (32) Piney River (SNP)
- (33) N. Fk. Thornton River (SNP)
- (34) Hazel River (SNP)

Madison County

- (35) Hughes Rivers (SNP)
- (36) Robinson River (SNP)
- (37) Rose River (SNP)
- (38) Rapidan River (SNP)

Greene County

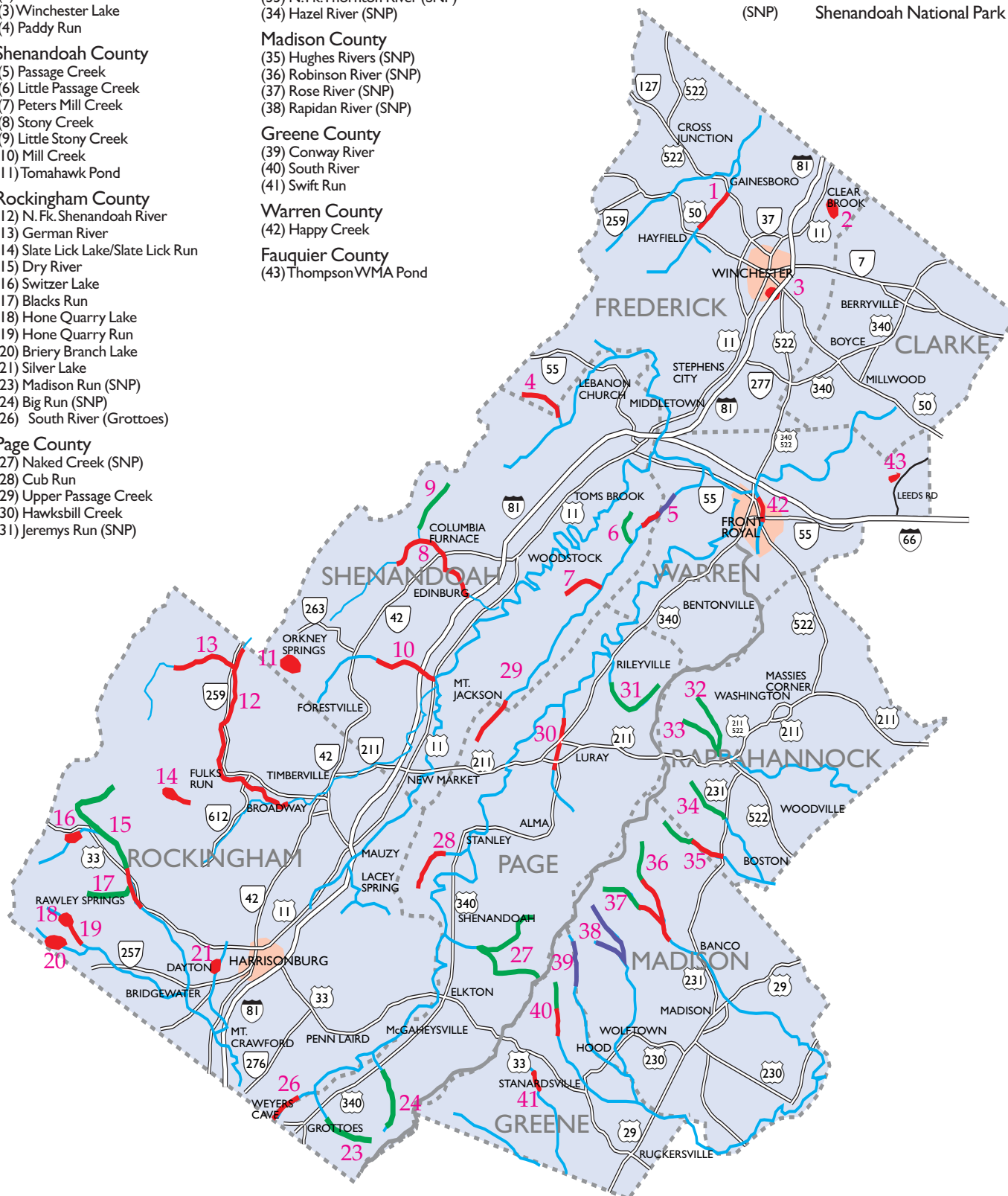
- (39) Conway River
- (40) South River
- (41) Swift Run

Warren County

- (42) Happy Creek

Fauquier County

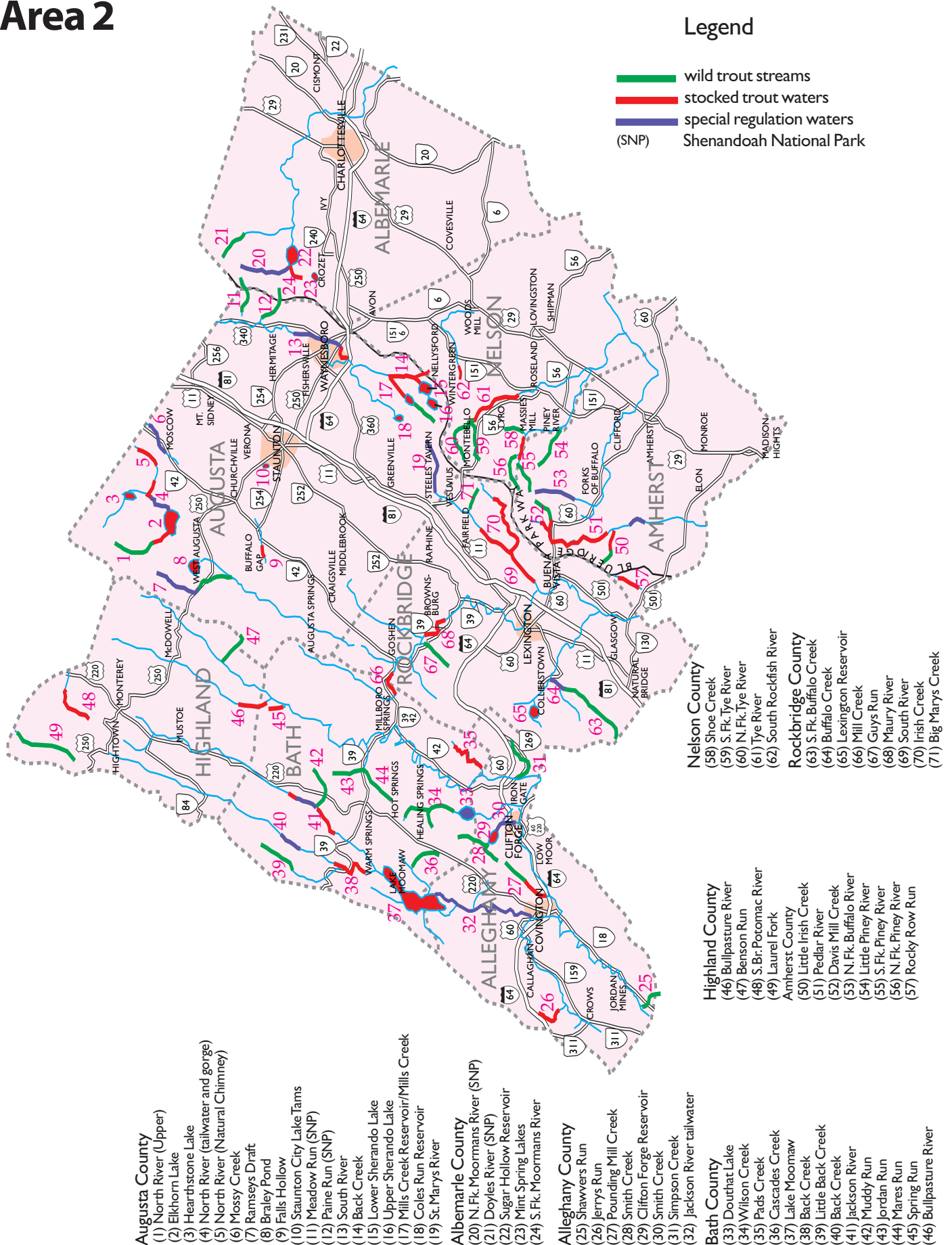
- (43) Thompson WMA Pond



Area 2

Legend

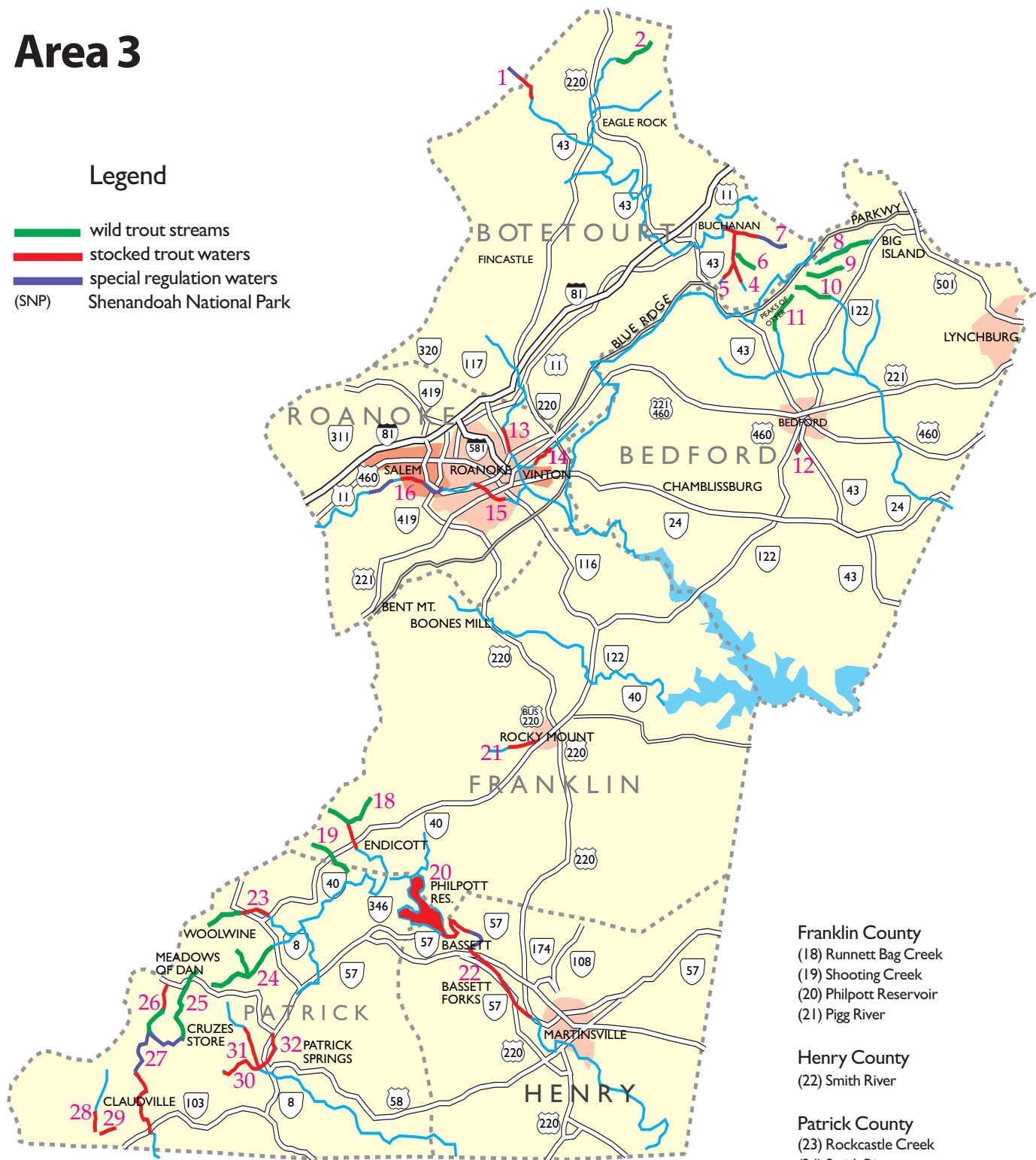
- wild trout streams
- stocked trout waters
- special regulation waters
- (SNP) Shenandoah National Park



Area 3

Legend

- wild trout streams
- stocked trout waters
- special regulation waters
- (SNP) Shenandoah National Park



Botetourt County

- (1) Roaring Run
- (2) Sinking Creek
- (4) Jennings Creek
- (5) McFalls Run
- (6) Middle Creek
- (7) North Creek

Bedford County

- (8) Hunting Creek
- (9) Reed Creek
- (10) Overstreet Creek
- (11) Stony Creek
- (12) Liberty Lake

Roanoke County

- (13) Tinker Creek
- (14) Glade Creek
- (15) Roanoke River
- (16) Roanoke River

Franklin County

- (18) Runnett Bag Creek
- (19) Shooting Creek
- (20) Philpott Reservoir
- (21) Pigg River

Henry County




- (22) Smith River

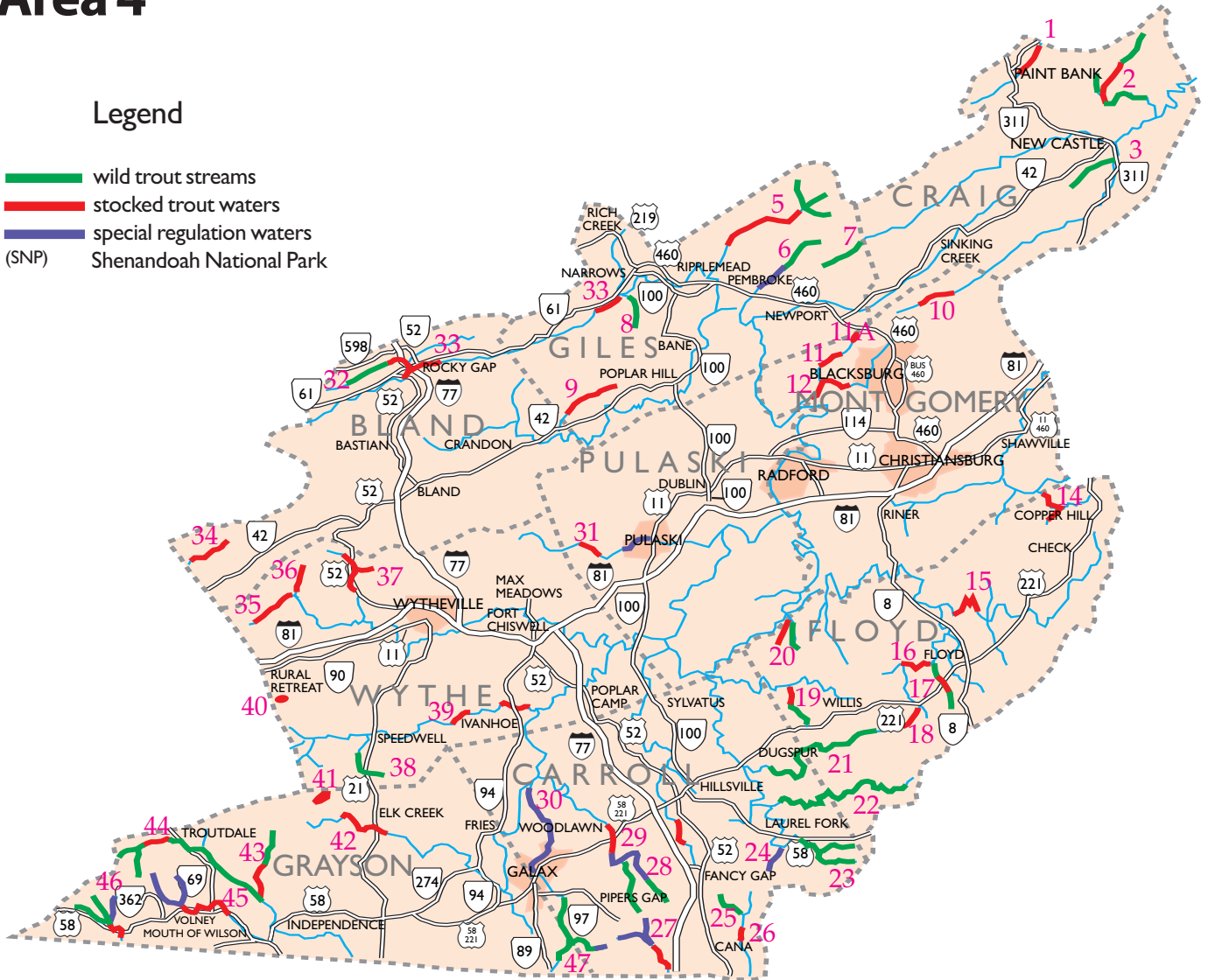
Patrick County

- (23) Rockcastle Creek
- (24) Smith River
- (25) Dan River
- (26) Round Meadow Creek
- (27) Dan River
- (28) Ararat River
- (29) Clarks Creek
- (30) South Mayo River
- (31) Poorhouse Creek
- (32) N. Fk. South Mayo River

Area 4

Legend

-  wild trout streams
 stocked trout waters
 special regulation waters
 (SNP) Shenandoah National Park



Craig County

- (1) Potts Creek
- (2) N. Fk. Barbours Creek/ Barbours Creek
- (3) Meadow Creek

Giles County

- (5) Big Stoney Creek
(6) Little Stoney Creek
(7) Johns Creek
(8) Mill Creek
(9) Dismal Creek

Montgomery County

- (10) Craig Creek
(11) Poverty Creek
(11A) Pandapas Pond
(12) Toms Creek

Floyd County

- (14) Goose Creek
(15) Little River
(16) W.Fk. Little River
(17) Howell Creek
(18) Rush Fork

- (19) Mira Fork
(20) Little Indian Creek
(21) Burkes Fork
(22) Laurel Fork

Carroll County

- (22) Laurel Fork
- (23) Big Reed Island Creek
- (24) Snake Creek
- (25) Elk Spur Branch
- (26) Lovills Creek
- (27) Stewarts Creek
- (28) Crooked Creek
- (29) Little Reed Island Creek
- (30) Chestnut Creek

Pulaski County

- (31) Peak Creek

Bland County

- (32) Laurel Fork Creek
(33) Wolf Creek
(34) Lick Creek

Wythe County

- (35) W.Fk. Reed Creek
(36) Guillon Fork Ponds
(37) Stoney Creek
(38) Dry Run
(39) Cripple Creek
(40) Rural Retreat Lake Pond

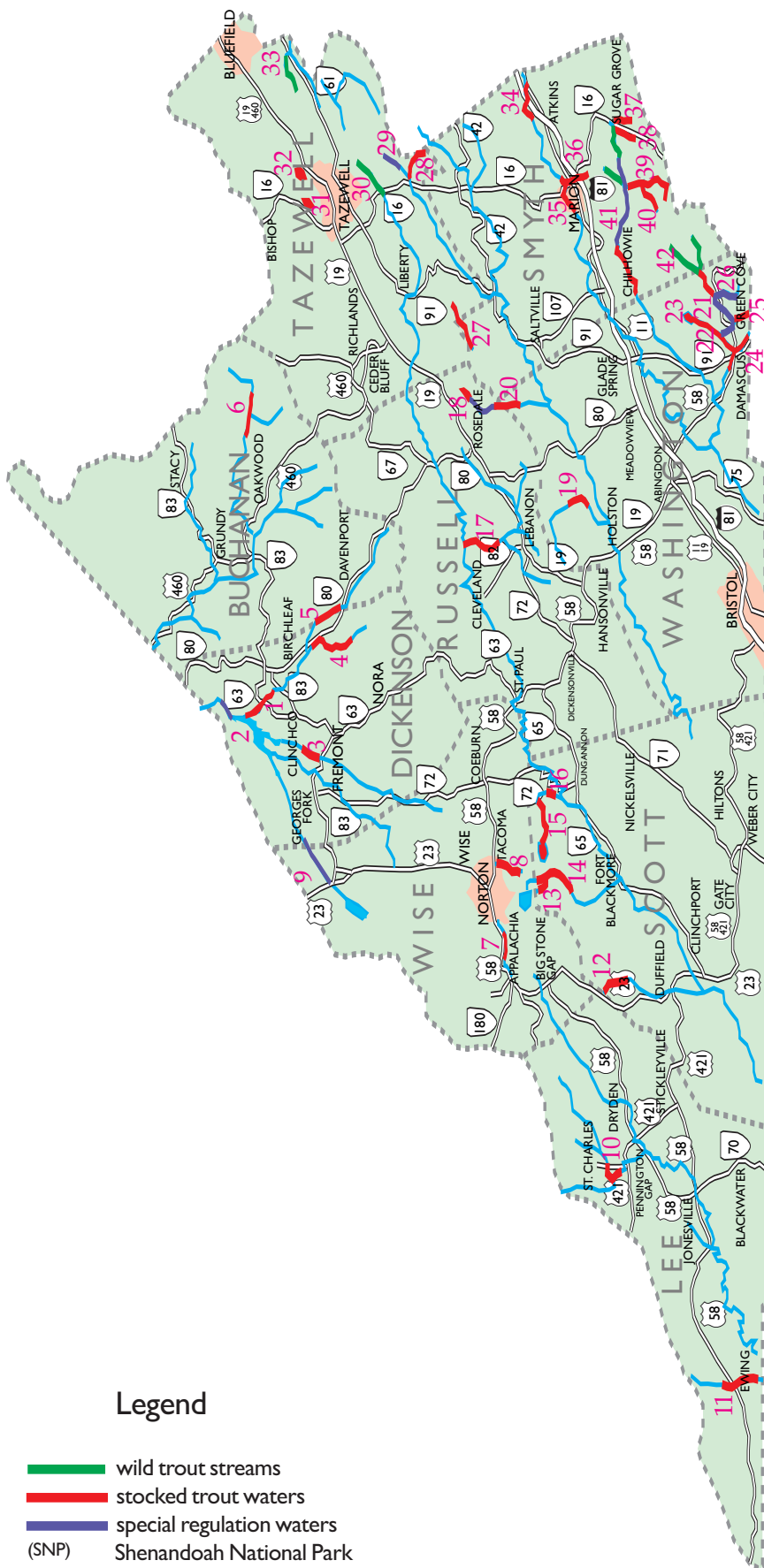
Grayson County

- (41) Hales Lakes
(42) Elk Creek
(43) Middle Fox Creek
(44) Fox Creek
(45) Big Wilson Creek
(46) Helton Creek
(47) Chestnut Creek
(48) Cabin Creek

Area 5

Legend

- wild trout streams
- stocked trout waters
- special regulation waters
- (SNP) Shenandoah National Park



Dickenson County

- (1) Russell Fork River
- (2) Pound River
- (3) Cranest River
- (4) Frying Pan Creek

Buchanan County

- (5) Russell Fork River
- (6) Dismal River

Wise County

- (7) Middle Fork Powell River
- (8) Clear Creek
- (9) Pound River / N. Fk. Pound River

Lee County

- (10) N. Fk. Powell River
- (11) Martins Creek

Scott County

- (12) Stock Creek
- (13) Straight Fork
- (14) Big Stony Creek
- (15) Bark Camp Lake
- (16) Little Stony Creek

Russell County

- (17) Big Cedar Creek
- (18) Laurel Bed Lake

Washington County

- (19) Big Brumley Creek
- (20) Big Tumbling Creek
- (21) Whitetop Laurel
- (22) Straight Branch
- (23) Beartree Lake
- (24) Tennessee Laurel
- (25) Valley Creek
- (26) Green Cove Creek
- Tazewell County
- (27) Little Tumbling Creek
- (28) Laurel Creek
- (29) Roaring Fork
- (30) Maiden Spring Creek
- (31) Lake Witten
- (32) Lincolshire Lake
- (33) Cove Creek

Smyth County

- (34) Middle Fk. Holston River (Upper)
- (35) Middle Fk. Holston River (Marion)
- (36) Staley Creek
- (37) Cressy Creek
- (38) Dickey Creek
- (39) Comer's Creek
- (40) Hurricane Creek
- (41) S. Fk. Holston River
- (42) Little Laurel Creek

The Virginia Angler Recognition Program



“Trophy-sized fish” that are caught in Virginia waters can be registered through the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries’ Angler Recognition Program. This program grants:

Trophy Fish Awards:

Certificates for registration of trophy size fish (see size chart below).

Expert Angler Awards:

Certificates and patches for registration of 10 trophy fish of the same species.

Master Angler Awards I-IV:

Certificates and patches for registration of 5 trophy fish of different species. Four successive levels.

Angler of the Month: Pins for registration of the largest trophy fish of each species, by weight, each month.

Angler of the Year: Pins for registration of the largest trophy fish of each species, by weight, each year.

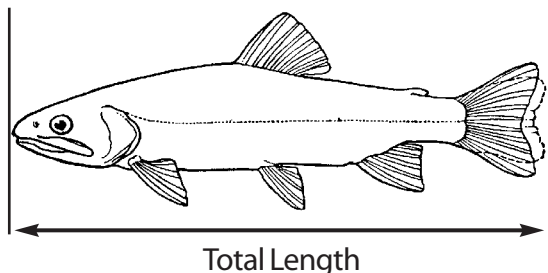
Creel of the Year: Recognizes the angler who catches and registers the most trophy-sized fish from January 1 through December 31, annually. Accolade presented is determined annually.

State Record Fish Awards are presented to anglers who catch fish that weigh more than the current state record weights (see State Record Freshwater Fish on page 70). State record holders are issued a wooden plaque.

Qualifying a Trophy Fish by Length & Photo

- Lay the fish on top of or beside a flat measuring rule.
- Do not lay the rule over the curvature of the fish’s body.
- Close the fish’s mouth and squeeze the tail lobes together.
- Measure from the tip of the snout to the end of the tail to the nearest 1/4-inch. See diagram below.
- Have an observer verify the length and complete the witness information on the trophy fish application. Or, take a picture of the fish next to the ruler and complete the length witness information yourself.
- Return the fish safely to the water if desired.

How to Measure a Fish



Certifying a Trophy Fish by Weight:

- Take your fish to a store with certified scales.
- Have a clerk weigh the fish and complete the weight witness information on the trophy fish application.

Program Policies

- The fish must be caught in Virginia inland waters or above the designated freshwater lines on tidal waters (see page 7).
- The fish must be caught legally (in accordance with Virginia Freshwater Fishing Regulations) by noncommercial methods.
- The fish must meet or exceed the minimum weights or lengths.
- The fish must be registered according to the proper procedures. Fish may be certified by weight, or length, or both.
Only store certified weights will be accepted.
- Applications must be received within 60 days to be eligible for Angler of the Month/Year competition.

Trophy Fish Lengths and Weights

To qualify as a trophy, fish must meet or exceed the following lengths or weights.

	Length	Weight
Largemouth bass	22"	8 lbs.
Smallmouth bass	20"	5 lbs.
Striped bass	37"	20 lbs.
Rock bass	12"	1 lb.
White bass	18"	2 lbs. 8 ozs.
Bowfin (Grindle)	30"	10 lbs.
Flathead catfish	40"	25 lbs.
Channel catfish	30"	12 lbs.
Blue catfish	38"	30 lbs.
Carp	34"	20 lbs.
Chain pickerel	24"	4 lbs.
Crappie	15"	2 lbs.
Gar	40"	10 lbs.
Muskellunge	40"	15 lbs.
Northern pike	30"	6 lbs.
Yellow perch	12"	1 lb. 4 oz.
White perch	13"	1 lb. 4 oz.
Sunfish	11"	1 lb.
Brook trout	16"	2 lbs.
Brown trout	25"	5 lbs.
Rainbow trout	22"	4 lbs.
Walleye	25"	5 lbs.
Sauger*	18"	2 lbs.

*Clinch and Powell rivers only

Freshwater Trophy Fish Award Application Form

Fill out completely & enclose payment. Please Print.

☐ Check box if applicant is under 16 & receiving a trophy fish award for the 1st time for this species.

Age of Applicant: _____

Name: _____ ☐ Jr ☐ Sr
First Middle Last

☐ Female ☐ Male Birth Date: m/____ d/____ y/____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (____) _____

- Species of Fish _____
- Weight of Fish _____
- Length of Fish (to nearest 1/4 inch) _____
- Name of water where caught: _____
- Type of water where caught: ☐ River ☐ Public Lake/Reservoir ☐ Stream ☐ Private Pond/Lake
- Name of County/City where caught: _____
- Date Caught: m/____ d/____ y/____
- Was the fish released? ☐ Yes ☐ No

☐ **Weight Certification:** Check box if certifying your fish by weight.

Witness signature: _____

Store Name _____ Phone (____) _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

☐ **Length Certification:** Check box if certifying your fish by length with a witness.

Witness signature: _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

☐ **Photo Certification:** Check box if certifying your fish by length with a picture. Print your name, birth date and fish species on back of photo. Enclose with application. Photos become the property of DGIF and are not returned. Photos may be used in publications.

Check box if you now qualify for an ☐ Expert Angler ☐ Master Angler

(Angler sign here) I, _____ hereby affirm that the above information is true and that in taking this fish I complied with all state fishing regulations and rules of the Virginia Angler Recognition Program and that the witness/es actually witnessed the weighing and/or measuring of this fish.

Registration Fees

- **Trophy Fish Certificate:** \$4.00 per fish (No charge for registration of the **first** trophy fish of each species for youth under 16 years old.)
- **Master Angler, Expert Angler, Angler of the Month/Year:** No charge
- For replacement award information call 804-367-1000.

Procedures for Registering Trophy Fish

- Certify the size of the fish.
- Complete one application form for each fish you are registering. You may include more than one application form per envelope. Applications may be found at bait and tackle outlets, DGIF offices and on the DGIF Web site at www.dgif.virginia.gov.
- **Mail the application form(s) with payment of \$4.00 per fish within 60 days from the date of catch.** Make check or money order payable to the *Treasurer of Virginia*. Send to: Cashier, VDGIF, 4010 West Broad St., Richmond, VA 23230

State Record Freshwater Fish

The rules for certifying a state record are as follows:

1. The fish must be caught in Virginia waters with rod, reel, line, and hook held in hand. The angler must identify the specific waters from which the fish was caught.

2. A Department employee must witness the official weighing. Only the weight observed by the Department employee will be certified. The fish must be unfrozen, in whole condition and made available to the Department employee for a thorough examination. The fish may also be made available to the Department for further examination if deemed necessary by the Department representative.

3. The species of the fish must be confirmed by a Department fish biologist who must inspect the fish in whole condition. (This can be accomplished subsequent to the weighing if the Department witness is not a fish biologist).

4. Application must be made within 60 days of the catch. A clear, side view photograph of the fish should accompany the application.

5. Weighing scales must be appropriate to the size of the fish and be certified for legal commercial trade. Fish under 25 pounds must be weighed on a scale capable of weighing to the ounce. Fish over 25 pounds should be weighed on scales having no greater graduations than one-half pound. Whenever scales of 8-ounce graduations are used, the fish weight will always be rounded down to the nearest one-half pound.

6. Any potential state record fish found to contain artificial food in the stomach will not be recognized as a new record.

7. No fish caught within the boundaries of a public or private aquaculture facility or private fee fishing area will be recognized as a state record.

8. If there is reasonable doubt regarding any aspect of the application, it may be rejected.

9. One appeal of the Committee's decision may be made within 60 days of notification. The appeal must be in writing to the Chairman, State Record Fish Committee.

Virginia State Record Fish as of 5/1/06

Species	Weight	Location	Date	Name
Blue Catfish	94 lbs., 4 oz.	Buggs Island Lake	6/29/2004	William Zost
Bowfin	16 lbs., 8 oz.	Lake Cahoon	10/17/04	John W. Plyler, Jr.
Brook Trout	5 lbs., 10 oz.	Big Stoney Creek	10/22/1987	Greg Orndorff
Brown Trout	14 lbs., 12 oz.	S.Fk. Holston	5/24/1990	Mike S. Perkins
Carp	49 lbs., 4 oz.	Lake Prince	6/25/1986	Jeffrey Graham
Chain Pickerel	7 lbs., 10 oz.	Lake Shawnee	12/29/1996	R.L. White
Channel Catfish	31 lbs., 8 oz.	Rappahannock	10/2/1992	Sue Stanley
Crappie	4 lbs., 10 oz.	Private Pond	4/24/1994	Justin Elliott
Flathead Catfish	66 lbs., 4 oz.	Occoquan Reservoir	5/6/1994	Mike Willems
Gar	25 lbs., 2 oz.	Lake Prince	5/28/1987	Roger Beaver
Largemouth Bass	16 lbs., 4 oz.	Conner Lake	5/20/1985	Richard Tate
Musky (& Tiger)	45 lbs.	New River	7/30/1989	R.A. Underwood
Northern Pike	31 lbs., 4 oz.	Motts	7/24/1994	George Wood
Rainbow Trout	14 lbs., 7 oz.	Greers Trout Pond	6/28/1993	Michael Lowe
Roanoke Bass	2 lbs., 9 oz.	Western Branch Reservoir	5/28/2005	Harry G. Swauger
Rock Bass	2 lbs., 2 oz.	Laurel Bed	5/17/1986	Larry Ball
Sauger	2 lbs., 12 oz.	Clinch River	10/21/2005	Freland E. Maxfield
Smallmouth Bass	8 lbs., 1 oz.	New River	3/12/2003	Donald S. Eaton, Jr.
Spotted Bass	3 lbs., 10 oz.	Claytor Lake	7/29/1993	Mike Ritter
Striped Bass	53 lbs., 7 oz.	Leesville Lake	3/16/2000	James B. Davis
Sunfish	4 lbs., 12 oz.	Private Pond	4/28/1986	Michael Mills
Walleye	15 lbs., 15 oz.	New River	12/15/2000	Anthony P. Duncan
White Bass	6 lbs., 13 oz.	Lake Orange	7/31/1989	Ron Sprouse
White Catfish	7 lbs., 6 oz.	Western Branch Reservoir	3/24/1992	Thomas F. Elkins
White Perch	2 lbs., 8 oz.	Lake Prince	4/30/1995	Jimmy A. Roper
Yellow Perch	2 lbs., 7 oz.	Lake Moomaw	3/20/1999	Tim Austin



Application for Virginia State Record Fish

Angler's Name (print) _____

Driver's License # _____ Date of Birth _____

Address _____

City, State, and Zip Code _____

Phone: Home _____ Business _____

Species _____ Weight _____ lbs. _____ oz(s).

Length _____ inches _____ Girth _____

Name of lake or stream (must be specific) _____ Date caught _____

How caught: casting/spinning _____ fly rod _____ other methods _____

Name of bait or lure _____ Line test _____

Fishing license number _____

Weighed at _____ (store or other public scale)

Type of scale used _____ Smallest increment measured _____

Scale serial # _____ Certified for trade? Yes _____ No _____

Department employee signature (witness to weighing) _____

Witness _____

Address _____

Species verified by _____ (Department Fish Biologist)

I hereby affirm the above information is to the best of my knowledge, true and correct and that the taking of the fish described above was within the state of Virginia under the rules for state record certification.

Angler's signature _____ Date _____

Handicap-Accessible Fishing Piers

City/County	Facility Location	Type	Body of Water
Alexandria	Cameron Run Park	Fishing Pier	Lake Cook
Amelia	Amelia Lake	Fishing Pier	Amelia Lake
Amherst*	Blue Ridge Parkway	Fishing Platform	Otter Lake*
Augusta	Elkhorn Lake Recreation Area Sherando Lake Recreation Area	Fishing Platforms Fishing Piers	Elkhorn Lake Sherando Lake
Bath	Bolar Flats Recreation Area	Fishing Pier	Lake Moomaw
Bedford	Smith Mountain Lake State Park	Fishing Pier	Smith Mountain Lake
Carroll	Lovill's Creek Lake	Fishing Pier	Lovill's Creek Lake
Charles City	Wilcox Wharf Harrison Fish Hatchery	Fishing Pier Fishing Piers	James River Harrison Lake
Craig	Fenwick Mines Recreation Area	Fishing Platform	Fenwick Mine Pond
Cumberland	Bear Creek Lake State Park	Fishing Pier	Bear Creek Lake
Dickenson	Cranenest & Spillway Boat Ramps	Fishing Piers	Flannagan Reservoir
Dinwiddie	Lake Chesdin Boat Ramp	Fishing Pier	Lake Chesdin
Fairfax	Burke Lake	Fishing Pier/Trail	Burke Lake
Fauquier	Lake Brittle Crockett Park	Fishing Pier Fishing Pier	Lake Brittle Germantown Lake
Frederick	Lake Frederick	Fishing Pier	Lake Frederick
Fredericksburg	City Dock	Fishing Pier	Rappahannock River
Giles	Big Stoney Creek	Fishing Platform	Big Stoney Creek
Gloucester	Beaverdam Swamp Reservoir	Fishing Pier	Beaverdam Swamp Reservoir
Hampton	Sandy Point Park	Fishing Pier	Sandy Lake
Henrico	Osborne Landing	Fishing Pier	James River
James City	Little Creek Reservoir Park	Fishing Pier	Little Creek Reservoir
King William	Aylett Landing West Point	Fishing Pier Fishing Pier	Mattaponi River Mattaponi River
Louisa	Dike #3	Angler's Catwalk	Lake Anna
Mecklenburg	North Bend Park Steel Bridge Landing	Fishing Pier Fishing Pier	Buggs Island Lake Lake Gaston
Norfolk	Lake Whitehurst	Fishing Piers	Lake Whitehurst
Orange	Lake Orange	Fishing Pier	Lake Orange
Patrick	Goose Point Park	Fishing Pier	Philpott Reservoir
Pittsylvania	Leesville Dam	Fishing Catwalk	Staunton River
Prince Edward	Briery Creek Sandy River Reservoir	Fishing Pier Fishing Pier	Briery Creek Lake Sandy River Reservoir
Prince William	Locust Shade Park Leesylvania State Park	Fishing Pier Fishing Pier	Locust Shade Pond Potomac River
Pulaski	Harry DeHaven Park	Fishing Pier	Claytor Lake
Richmond (City)	Belle Isle	Fishing Pier	James River
Rockingham	Grottoes Town Park	Fishing Pier	Town Park Pond
Scott	Bark Camp Lake	Fishing Pier	Bark Camp Lake

* Lake Drained for Dam Repairs

continued on page 73

City/County	Facility Location	Type	Body of Water
Shenandoah	Tomahawk Pond Recreation Area	Fishing Platforms	Tomahawk Pond
Spotsylvania	Motts Run Reservoir	Fishing Piers	Motts Run Reservoir
Stafford	Lake Curtis	Fishing Pier	Lake Curtis
Smyth	Buller Hatchery	Fishing Platform	South Holston River
Virginia Beach	Lake Whitehurst	Fishing Pier	Lake Whitehurst
Washington	Bear Tree Recreation Area Mount Rogers NRA	Fishing Pier Fishing Trail/Piers	Beartree Lake Whitetop Laurel Creek
Waynesboro	Ridgeview Park	Fishing Pier	South River
York	Waller Mill Park	Fishing Platform	Waller Mill Reservoir

Lake Horsepower Limits

Anna (unlimited)	Leesville (unlimited)
Back Bay (unlimited)	Lunga (10 HP)
Bannister (unlimited)	Meade (10 HP)
Briery Creek (10HP)	Moomaw (unlimited)
Buggs Island (unlimited)	North Fork Pound (unlimited)
Burnt Mills (12HP)	Nottoway (10 HP)
Chesdin (unlimited)	Occoquan (10HP)
Chickahominy (unlimited)	Philpott (unlimited)
Claytor (unlimited)	Prince (12 HP)
Cphoon (10HP)	Sandy River (10 HP)
Drummond (10HP)	Smith [Virginia Beach] (12 HP)
Emporia (10HP)	HP)
Ft. Pickett Lakes (35 HP)	Smith Mountain (unlimited)
Flannagan (unlimited)	Speight's Run (10 HP)
Gaston (unlimited)	South Holston (unlimited)
Gordon (10 HP)	Western Branch (12 HP)
Harrison (5 HP)	Whitehurst (12 HP)
Kilby (10HP)	

Note: While some lakes have unlimited horsepower, they may have speed limits. Most lakes not listed are "Electric Motors Only," but a few small city or county lakes have "No Boat" regulations. Check local regulations.

Boat Registration

All motorboats (vessels which are propelled by machinery including gasoline, diesel and electric motors) must be registered with the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (except vessels operating under a valid temporary 30-day registration certificate, vessels registered in another state and used in Virginia for less than 90 consecutive days, vessels which have a valid marine document issued by the United States Government). You must display the registration number and validation decal on each side of the forward half of the vessel. Also, you must have the valid certificate of number (registration card) on board before your boat can legally be operated on Virginia state waters.

For further information, please contact the Boat Section of the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, 4010 West Broad Street, Richmond, VA 23230-1104, (877) 898-2628 or (804) 367-6135.

Boat Smart From the Start Wear Your Life Jacket

A disproportionate number of sportsmen and women die in boating accidents, most often from falls overboard or capsizing. Wearing a Personal Flotation Device (PFD) may save your life. It is estimated that 88% of boating-related drownings could have been prevented had the victim been wearing a PFD.

The newest type of PFD, the manual or automatic inflatable, is lightweight and comfortable. They are versatile enough to be worn at any time of the year, and will easily fit over a hunting coat or sweater.

Safety Tips:

- Check the weather before leaving.
- Wear a life jacket, vest, or float coat.
- Remain seated and keep weight evenly distributed.
- Anchor from the bow, never from the stern.
- Properly load your boat.
- Stay with your boat if it should capsize.
- Guard against hypothermia.
- Leave the alcohol at home.
- Carry a whistle.
- If you have a cell phone, take it with you.
- Call 1-800-245-BOAT to locate a boating safety course near you.



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Kids N' Fishing Photo Contest

It certainly isn't hard to "picture it," kid's 'n fishing that is—smiles, laughs, looks of anticipation and excitement. So, join in the fun, catch the excitement of your child on film while fishing and enter his or her picture in the annual Kid's 'n Fishing Photo Contest sponsored by VDGIF and Shakespeare Tackle Company...celebrate National Fishing Week.

The winning pictures are those that best capture the theme "Kids Enjoying Fishing." Children in the first place photographs of each category will receive a variety of fishing-related prizes. You do not need to be a professional photographer. Any snapshot will do.

Contest Rules:

- Children in the picture must fall into one of the following age categories when the picture is taken: 1–5, 6–9, and 10–12.
- Photos should not be more than one year old.
- Photos must be taken in Virginia.
- Only one photo per child.
- Photos must be submitted on or before June 22, 2007.
- The location where the picture was taken, plus name, address, age, and phone number of the child must accompany the photograph. Prizes will be sent directly to the winning children. (Please do not write on the back of the photographs.) Photos will not be returned and may be used in other VDGIF promotional materials.
- Judging will take place at the beginning of July.
- You must submit a Photo Contest Release Form (PDF) along with your photograph.

To Enter: Send your photo with the child's name, age, phone number and address, along with the photo release form to: Angling Education Photo Contest, Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, 4010 West Broad Street, Richmond, VA 23230-1104.



Give A Lifetime of Memories!

What better gift could one give than that of a lifetime fishing license. Not only is it a way to give a thoughtful gift, but it will be a gift that will open the door to a lifetime of enjoyment in the great outdoors of Virginia, and leave an endowment for future generations of Virginia's wildlife enthusiasts.

If you would like more information on how to purchase a Virginia Lifetime Fishing or Hunting License call (804) 367-1000 or go online at http://www.dgif.virginia.gov/forms/lifetime_licenses/index.html and download an application.

Angling Education Program



Fishing is such an exciting sport, one that can be enjoyed by all. Yet there are so many who have never experienced the thrill of catching a fish! One of the great things about angling is that there are no restrictions to participants, regardless of age, gender, or ability, anyone can enjoy fishing and the outdoors.

The VDGIF Angling Education Program offers angling workshops throughout the year. The workshops provide education

and instruction about fishing techniques, casting, rigging, biology and opportunities to fish with instructors. Workshops are conducted statewide covering a wide variety of species and techniques and are designed for beginners or experienced anglers.

The Virginia Angling Education program was started to encourage fishing in Virginia. To enable this, partnerships are developed with individuals, schools, organizations, and businesses that want to help people get outdoors and enjoy fishing. We provide essentials for planning and conducting educational fishing events.

The Angling Education staff provides training workshops to assist educators obtain the skills needed to plan and implement fishing clinics, courses, clubs, and camps. Curriculums, activity guides, student materials, and a regional tackle loaner program are provided to facilitate successful fishing programs.

Educators come from service organizations, conservation clubs, 4-H, Scouts, Girls/Boys Clubs, camps, nature centers, parks and recreation agencies, private businesses, and schools. Many educators are simply those with a desire to make a difference in the lives of others in their community through fishing. They often find themselves organizing fishing clubs, fishing courses, or fishing clinics under the direction of their local Extension office, parks program, community college, or local school system.

If you are interested in becoming a partner in fishing education, or participating in a program, visit our Web site.

Report Violations

call 1-800-237-5712 or

e-mail: wildcrime@dgif.virginia.gov

A game warden can also be reached by calling your local Sheriff's Office or Police Department. When reporting try to get as much information as possible, such as:

What happened.

Where did it happen; be as specific as possible

Who was involved; describe persons (names if known), vehicles (license numbers are crucial), and names of other witnesses.

When did it happen.

Don't allow the actions of a few outlaws tarnish the reputation of Virginia's sportsmen!

Virginia Wildlife Outdoor Catalog



It's the perfect place for that perfect gift. Hats, shirts, clocks, belt buckles and one-of-a-kind collector items, are the perfect way to bring the outdoors to you.

To make your shopping easy, visit the Department's Web site or call (804) 367-2569. VISA and MasterCard orders are welcome.



photos © Dwight Dyke

Special Offer To Anglers

Subscribe to Virginia Wildlife Magazine

☐ 7 issues-\$7.00 ☐ 21 issues-\$21.00 (**Best Offer**) ☐ New ☐ Renewal

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Make checks payable to the: *Treasurer of Virginia*

Send orders to: Virginia Wildlife Magazine, Department of Game and Inland Fisheries

P.O. Box 11104, Richmond, VA 23230

or

call 1-800-710-9369 and mention code J6HF



The New 2006-2007 Virginia Wildlife Calendar Is Now Available!

It's time again to purchase your copy of the 2006-2007 Virginia Wildlife Calendar, one of the most informative and beautiful wildlife calendars in the country. No other calendar will give you the best times to go fishing and hunting, unique natural resource information that will amaze and educate you, and spectacular wildlife photographs that give you an up-close look at Virginia's incredible wildlife.

The Virginia Wildlife Calendar is a production of the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries. Customers should note that the 2006-2007 wildlife calendar starts in September 2006 and will run through December 2007. Quantities are limited so don't wait—order now!

The 2006-2007 Virginia Wildlife Calendars are \$10.00 each. Make check payable to: *Treasurer of Virginia* and send to Virginia Wildlife Calendar, P.O. Box 11104, Richmond, VA. 23230-1104. If you would like to use your VISA or MasterCard you can order online at www.dgif.virginia.gov. Please allow 4-6 weeks for delivery.



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"take me fishing"™

TAKEMEFISHING.ORG

Zebra Mussel Alert

Zebra mussels are freshwater bivalves and are named for the alternating wavy dark and light bands on their shells, which can be absent. Adults are D-shaped and generally thumbnail-sized, reaching a maximum size of 2 inches. While they live only 2-3 years, zebra mussels can produce upwards of 1 million young each year. Native to eastern Europe, this invasive species was first discovered in the U.S. in 1988 in a Michigan lake and has since spread to about 22 states, including Virginia. Unlike other freshwater bivalves, the zebra mussel can attach to surfaces using its byssal thread, leading to tremendous recreation, wildlife, and economic damage. Zebra mussels can damage watercraft hulls and motors, smother aquatic wildlife like freshwater mussels and crayfish, and water and power facilities must treat their systems to keep them free of zebra mussels in infested areas. Additionally, they are efficient filter-feeders and can remove microscopic organisms that make up the food base for many native fishes and aquatic wildlife. Given their ability to attach to hard surfaces and survive out of water for up to 7 days, many infestations have occurred by hitching rides on watercraft. The microscopic larvae also can be transported in bilges, ballast water, live wells or in any piece of equipment that holds water. Because of the potential impacts, the Department is counting on you to help stop the spread of zebra mussels by taking the following precautions:



©Brian Watson

- ✓ Visually inspect and scrub boat hulls, motors, anchors, and trailers, removing any attached vegetation at site of origin, then hose equipment with hot (140°F) and/or high-pressure water if possible.
- ✓ Bilges, live wells, and any other water-holding compartments should be drained at the site of origin and flushed with disinfectant or hot water.
- ✓ Boat and other equipment should remain completely dry for at least 24 hours before being used again.
- ✓ Take same precautions with waders, bait buckets, and other equipment that can hold water or comes into contact with water.

If you believe you have seen or found a zebra mussel, please contact the Department immediately at (804) 367-6913 or Brian Watson at the Department's Forest Office (434-525-7522). For more information on zebra mussels, please see the Department's Web site at www.dgif.virginia.gov.

DEPARTMENT'S REGULATION REVIEW PROCESS

The VDGIF hunting, fishing, wildlife diversity, and boating regulations review and amendment process is starting now, and we encourage your participation. The Board of Game and Inland Fisheries plans to conduct March, July, and October 2007 Board meetings to consider amendments to regulations (exact dates to be announced). Under the 2007 process, the public will again have extended opportunity to review and comment on staff recommended regulation amendments before the Board acts to propose and finalize amendments. As part of this process, VDGIF is inviting anglers, hunters, wildlife enthusiasts, and boaters to speak out now about any changes in regulations that you think should be considered. Starting July 2006, we have established a site on the Agency Web page (www.dgif.virginia.gov/regulations) for you to send us any issues or changes that you think need to be made to VDGIF regulations. If you do not have web access you can always send us your written comments by mail to: Policy Analyst/Regulatory Coordinator, DGIF, 4010 W. Broad St., Richmond, VA 23230.

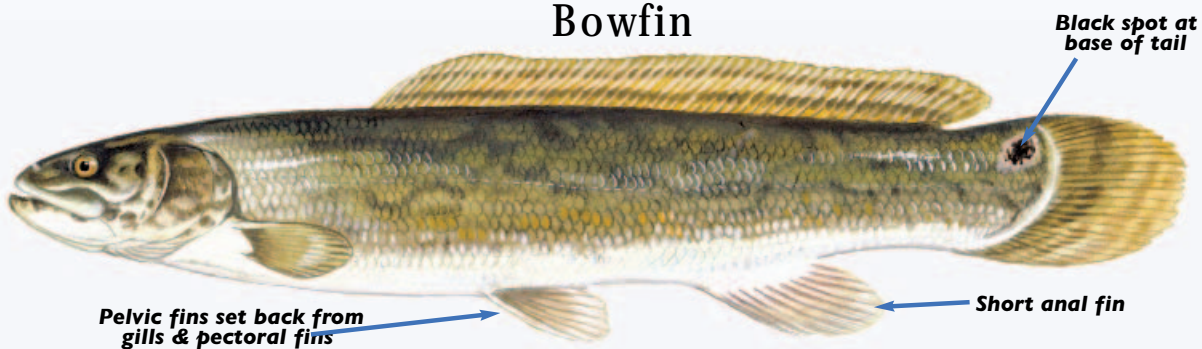
DO YOU KNOW THE DIFFERENCE ?

Northern Snakehead

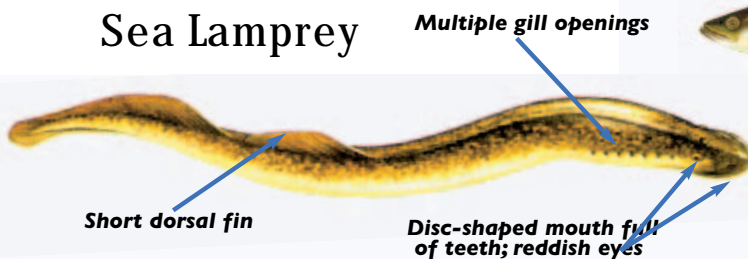


Similar-Appearing Native Species

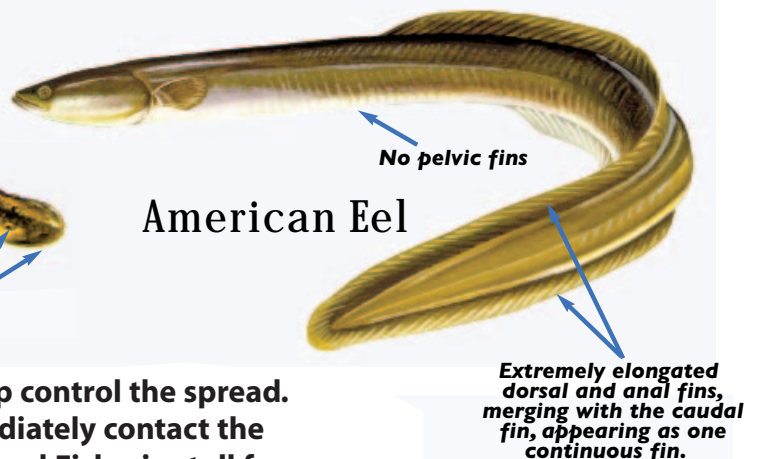
Bowfin



Sea Lamprey



American Eel



Don't contribute to the problem, help control the spread.

Kill the fish, put it on ice, and immediately contact the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries toll free at 1-800-770-4951. Snakeheads are considered dead if:

- a) the head is removed, b) the gill arches are separated from the body, or c) the internal organs are removed.


Attention Anglers

Now Enjoy a Full Year of Fishing

Effective July 1, 2006, all licenses sold by VDGIF will be valid one year from the date of purchase with two exceptions: the Deer, Bear, Turkey License and the National Forest Permit.

By using a new state of the art automated license system the Department will provide improved service to anglers and license vendors, along with a more efficient and convenient way to enjoy time in the outdoors.

Buy Early – Buy All

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF GAME & INLAND FISHERIES RESIDENT LICENSE		06	PRIVILEGES	EXPIRES ON	PRICE
License #: VA4000299			00006 00052 600112 343		
Primary License #: VA4000035			Resident State Fishing	07/30/07	13.00
Name:			Resident Trout Fishing	07/30/07	13.00
CID: xxxxxx1234			National Forest Permit	06/30/07	4.00
DOB: 01/01/1960			Total		30.00
Gender: Male			 Check Your Expiration Dates		
Address:					
Agent: 041036 Joe M Issued: 07/31/06			HIP #		
THIS LICENSE IS NOT SUBJECT TO EXCHANGE OR REFUND.			AUTOMATED LICENSE		